

THE  
COMPLAINT:  
OR,  
*Right-Thoughts*  
ON  
LIFE, DEATH,  
AND  
IMMORTALITY.

---

To which is added,  
A Paraphrase on Part of the Book of *JOB.*

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*Sunt lacrymæ rerum, & mentem mortalia tangunt.*  
VIRG.

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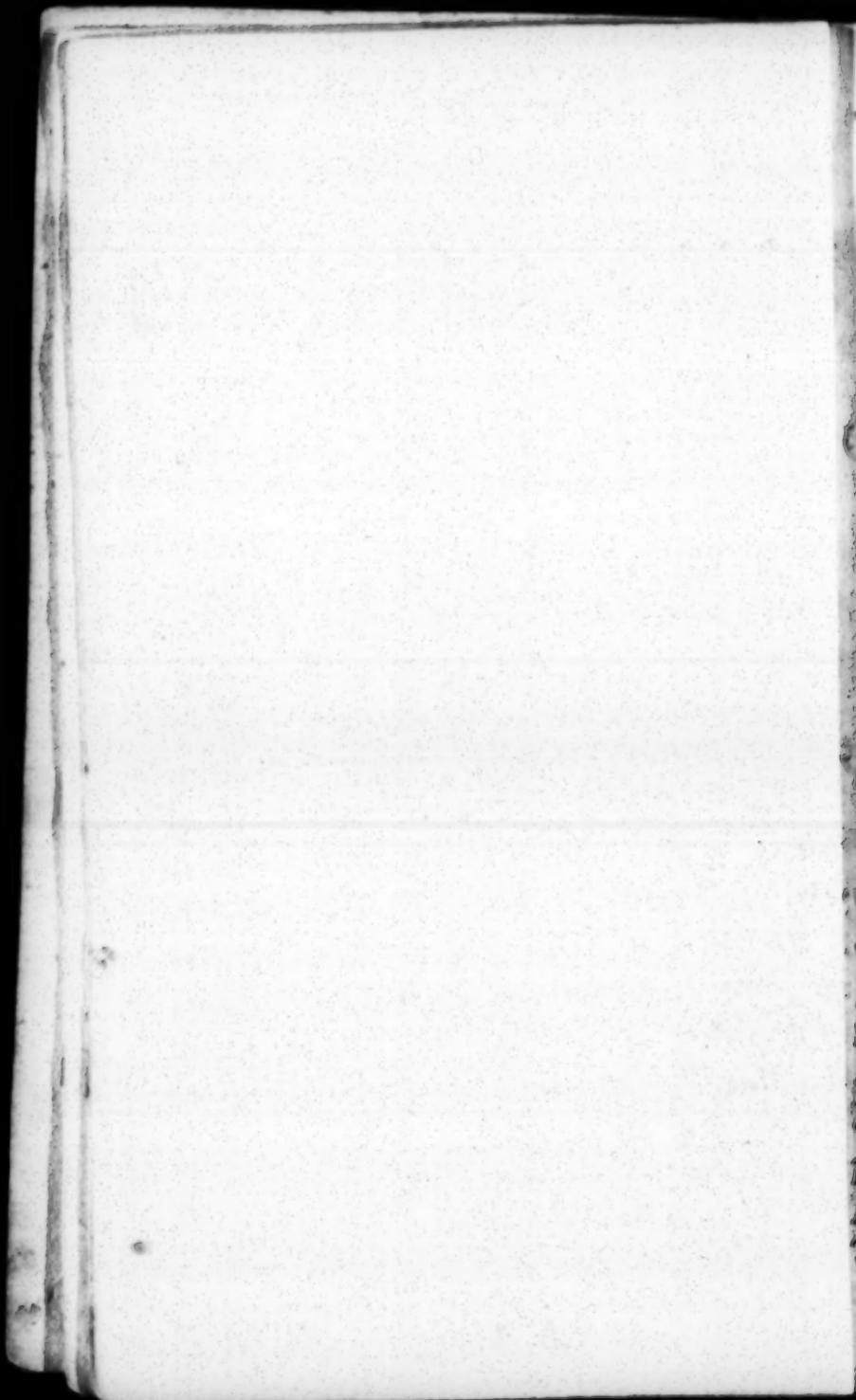
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## P R E F A C E.

*A*S the occasion of this Poem was real, not fictitious; so the method pursued in it, was rather imposed, by what spontaneously arose in the author's mind on that occasion, than meditated, or designed. Which will appear very probable from the nature of it. For it differs from the common mode of Poetry; which is, from long narrations to draw short morals: Here, on the contrary, the narrative is short, and the morality arising from it makes the bulk of the Poem. The reason of it is, That the facts mentioned did naturally pour these moral reflections on the thought of the writer.



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# THE COMPLAINT.

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## NIGHT the FIRST.

ON

## Life, Death, *and* Immortality.

Humbly Inscribed

To the RIGHT HONOURABLE

ARTHUR ONSLOW, *Efq;*  
SPEAKER of the HOUSE of COMMONS.

---

TIR'D nature's sweet restorer, balmy *sleep!*  
He, like the world, his ready visit pays  
Where fortune smiles; the wretched he forsakes;  
Swift on his downy pinions flies from woe,  
And lights on lids unfully'd with a tear.

From short (as usual) and disturb'd repose,  
I wake: How happy they, who wake no more!  
Yet that were vain, if dreams infest the grave.  
I wake, emerging from a sea of dreams  
Tumultuous; where my wreck'd, desponding  
From wave to wave of *fanſy'd* misery, [thought,  
At random drove, her helm of reason lost:  
Tho' now restor'd, 'tis only change of pain,

B

(A

2      The COMPLAINT. Night I.

(A bitter change !) severer for severe.  
The day too short for my distress! and night,  
Ev'n in the zenith of her dark domain,  
Is sun-shine, to the colour of my fate.

Night, sable goddess! from her ebon throne,  
In rayless majesty, now stretches forth  
Her leaden sceptre o'er a slumb'ring world.  
Silence, how dead! and darkness, how profound!  
Nor eye, nor lift'ning ear, an object finds;  
Creation sleeps. 'Tis, as the gen'ral pulse  
Of life stood still, and nature made a pause;  
An awful pause! prophetic of her end.  
And let her prophecy be soon fulfill'd;  
Fate! drop the curtain; I can lose no more.

Silence, and Darkness! solemn sisters! twins  
From antient Night, who nurse the tender thought  
To reason, and on reason build resolve,  
(That column of true majesty in man)  
Assist me: I will thank you in the grave;  
The grave, your kingdom: There this frame shall  
A victim sacred to your dreary shrine: [f  
But what are ye? THOU, who didst put to flight  
Primæval Silence, when the morning-stars,  
Exulting, shouted o'er the rising ball;  
O THOU! whose word from solid Darkness struck  
That spark the sun; strike wisdom from my soul  
My soul, which flies to Thee, her trust, her treasure,  
As misers to their gold, while others rest.

The

# I. On Life, Death, and Immortality. 3

Thro' this opaque of *nature*, and of *soul*,  
This double night, transmit one pitying ray,  
To lighten, and to cheer. O lead my mind,  
(A mind that fain would wander from its woe)  
Lead it thro' various scenes of *life*, and *death* ;  
And from each scene the noblest truths inspire.  
Nor less inspire my *conduct*, than my *song* ;  
<sup>und!</sup> Teach my best reason, reason ; my best will  
Teach rectitude ; and fix my firm resolve  
Wisdom to wed, and pay her long arrear :  
Nor let the Phial of thy vengeance, pour'd  
On this devoted head, be pour'd in vain.

The bell strikes *one*. We take no note of time,  
But from its loss. To give it then a tongue,  
Is wise in man. As if an angel spoke,  
<sup>ough</sup> feel the solemn sound. If heard aright,  
It is the *kuell* of my departed hours :  
Where are they ? With the years beyond the flood.  
It is the *signal* that demands dispatch ;  
<sup>ne sha</sup> How much is to be done ? my hopes and fears  
[f start up alarm'd, and o'er life's narrow verge  
<sup>o flight</sup> look down—on what ? a fathomless abyss ;  
I dread eternity ! how surely mine !  
And can eternity belong to me,  
oor pensioner on the bounties of an hour ?  
<sup>ay sou</sup> How poor, how rich, how abject, how august,  
<sup>reasur</sup> How complicate, how wonderful, is man !  
How passing wonder HE, who made him such !  
Who centred in our make such strange extremes !

From diff'rent natures marvelously mixt,  
*Connection* exquisite of distant worlds !  
 Distinguishi'd link in Being's endless chain !  
 Midway from *nothing* to the *Deity* !  
 A beam ethereal fully'd, and absorpt !  
 Tho' fully'd, and dishonour'd, still divine !  
 Dim miniature of greatness absolute !  
 An heir of glory ! a frail child of dust !  
*Helpless* immortal ! insect *infinite* !  
 A worm ! a god !—I tremble at myself,  
 And in myself am lost ! At home a stranger,  
 Thought wanders up and down, surpris'd, aghast,  
 And wond'ring at her *own* : how reason reels !  
 O what a miracle to man is man,  
 Triumphant distress'd ! what joy, what dread !  
 Alternately transported, and alarm'd !  
 What can preserve my life ? or what destroy ?  
 An angel's arm can't snatch me from the grave ;  
 Legions of angels can't confine me there.

'Tis past conjecture ; all things rise in proof :  
 While o'er my limbs *sleep*'s soft dominion spread,  
 What, tho' my soul phantaſtic measures trod  
 O'er fairy fields ; or mourn'd along the gloom  
 Of pathless woods ; or down the craggy steep  
 Hurl'd headlong, swam with pain the mantled  
 pool ;  
 Or scal'd the cliff ; or danc'd on hollow winds,  
 With antic shapes, wild natives of the brain ?  
 Her ceaseless flight, tho' devious, speaks her na-  
 ture

## On Life, Death, and Immortality. 5

Of subtler essence than the trodden clod ;  
Active, aëreal, tow'ring, unconfin'd,  
Unfetter'd with her gross companion's fall.  
**E**v'n silent night proclaims my soul *immortal* :  
**E**v'n silent night proclaims eternal day.  
For human weal, Heav'n husbands all events,  
Dull sleep instructs, nor sport vain dreams in vain.  
Why then *their* loss deplore, that are not lost ?  
Why wanders wretched thought their tombs a-  
In infidel distress ? Are *angels* there ? [round,  
Slumbers, rak'd up in dust, ethereal fire ?  
They live ! they greatly live a life on earth  
ast, Unkindled, unconceiv'd ; and from an eye  
! Of tenderness, let heav'nly pity fall  
On me, more justly number'd with the dead.  
d ! *This* is the desert, *this* the solitude :  
How populous ! how vital, is the grave !  
e ; *This* is creation's melancholy vault,  
The vale funereal, the said *cypress* gloom ;  
f : All, all on earth is *shadow*, all beyond  
ead, *Is substance* ; the reverse is folly's *creed* :  
How solid all, where change shall be no more !  
This is the bud of being, the dim dawn,  
The twilight of our day, the vestibule.  
Life's theatre as yet is shut, and death,  
Strong death, alone can heave the massy bar,  
This gross impediment of clay remove,  
And make us embryos of existence free.

6      The COMPLAINT.   Night I.

From *real* life, but little more remote  
Is *He*, not yet a candidate for light,  
The *future* embryo, slumb'ring in his fire.  
Embryos we must be, till we burst the shell,  
Yon ambient, azure shell, and spring to life,  
The life of gods: O transport! and of man.  
Yet man, fool man! *here* buries all his thoughts;  
Interrs celestial hopes without one sigh.  
Pris'ner of earth, and pent beneath the moon,  
*Here* pinions all his wishes; wing'd by Heav'n  
'To fly at infinite; and reach it there,  
Where *seraphs* gather immortality,  
On life's fair tree, fast by the throne of God.  
What golden joys ambrosial clust'ring glow,  
In HIS full beam, and ripen for the just,  
Where momentary ages are no more!  
Where time, and pain, and chance, and death, ex-  
And is it in the flight of threescore years, [pite  
To push eternity from human thought,  
And sinother souls immortal in the dust?  
A soul immortal, spending all her fires,  
Wasting her strength in strenuous idleness,  
Thrown into tumult, raptur'd, or alarm'd,  
At aught this scene can threaten, or indulge,  
Resembles *ocean* into tempest wrought,  
'To waft a feather, or to drown a fly.

Where falls this censure? It o'erwhelms mysel  
How was my heart incrusted by the world!  
O how self-fetter'd was my grov'ling soul!

Ho

## On Life, Death, and Immortality. 7

How, like a worm, was I wrapt round and round  
In silken thought, which reptile *fancy* spun,  
Till darken'd *reason* lay quite clouded o'er  
With soft conceit of endless comfort *here*,  
Nor yet put forth her wings to reach the skies !

Night-visions may befriend (as sung above) :

Our *waking* dreams are fatal. How I dreamt  
Of things impossible ! (Could sleep do more ?)  
Of joys perpetual in perpetual change !  
Of stable pleasures on the tossing wave !  
Eternal sunshine in the storms of life !

How richly were my noon-tide trances hung  
With gorgeous tapestries of pictur'd joys !

Joy behind joy, in endless perspective !  
Till at death's toll, whose restless iron tongue  
Calls daily for his millions at a meal,

Starting I woke, and found myself undone.  
Where now my phrensy's pompous furniture ?

The *cobweb'd* cottage, with its ragged wall  
Of mould'ring mud, is *royalty* to me !

The *spider's* most attenuated thread  
Is cord, is cable, to man's tender tie  
On earthly bliss ; it breaks at ev'ry breeze.

O ye blest scenes of permanent delight !  
Full, above measure ! lasting, beyond bound !  
A *perpetuity* of bliss, is bliss.

Could you, so rich in rapture, fear an end,  
That ghastly thought would drink up all your joy,  
And quite *unparadise* the realms of light.

8      The COMPLAINT. Night 1.

Safe are you lodg'd above these rolling spheres ;  
'The baleful influence of whose giddy dance  
Sheds sad vicissitude on all beneath.

*Here* teems with revolutions ev'ry hour ;  
And rarely for the better ; or the best,  
More mortal than the common births of fate.  
Each *moment* has its sickle, emulous  
Of *Time's* enormous scythe, whose ample sweep  
Strikes empires from the root ; each *moment* plays  
His little weapon in the narrower sphere  
Of sweet domestic comfort, and cuts down  
The fairest bloom of sublunary bliss.

Bliss ! sublunary bliss !—Proud words, and vain !  
Implicit treason to divine decree !  
A bold invasion of the rights of heav'n !  
I clasp'd the phantoms, and I found them air.  
O had I weigh'd it ere my fond embrace !  
What darts of agony had miss'd my heart !

Death ! great proprietor of all ! 'tis thine  
To tread out empire, and to quench the stars.  
The sun himself by thy permission shines ;  
And, one day, thou shalt pluck him from his  
Amid such mighty plunder, why exhaust [sphere.  
Thy *partial* quiver on a mark so mean ?  
Why thy *peculiar* rancour wreak'd on me ?  
Infatiate archer ! could not *one* suffice ? [stain ;  
Thy shaft flew *thrice* ; and *thrice* my peace was  
And *thrice*, ere *thrice* yon moon had fill'd her  
horn.

## On Life, Death, and Immortality. 9

O *Cynthia!* why so pale? Dost thou lament  
Thy wretched neighbour? Grieve to see thy wheel  
Of ceaseless change outwhirl'd in human life?  
How wanes my borrow'd bliss! from *Fortune's*  
Precarious courtesy! not *virtue's* sure, [smile,  
Self-given, *solar*, ray of sound delight.

In ev'ry vary'd posture, place, and hour,  
How widow'd ev'ry thought of ev'ry joy!  
Thought, busy thought! too busy for my peace!  
Thro' the dark postern of time long elaps'd,  
Led softly, by the stillness of the night,  
Led, like a murderer, (and such it proves!)  
Strays, (wretched rover!) o'er the pleasing *past*;  
In quest of wretchedness perversely strays;  
And finds all desert *now*; and meets the ghosts  
Of my departed joys; a num'rous train!  
I rue the riches of my former fate;  
Sweet comfort's blasted clusters I lament;  
I tremble at the blessings once so dear;  
And ev'ry pleasure pains me to the heart.

Yet why complain? or why complain for one?  
Hangs out the sun his lustre but for me,  
The *single* man? Are angels all beside?  
I mourn for millions: 'tis the common lot;  
In *this* shape, or in *that*, has fate entail'd  
The mother's throes on all of woman born,  
Not more the children, than sure heirs of *pain*.

War, famine, pest, vulcano, storm, and fire,  
Intestine broils, *Oppression*, with her heart

## 10 The COMPLAINT. Night 1.

Wrapt up in triple brass, besiege mankind.  
 God's image disinherited of day,  
*Here*, plung'd in mines, forgets a sun was made,  
*There*, beings deathless as their haughty lord,  
 Are hammer'd to the galling oar for life ;  
 And plow the winter's wave, and reap despair.  
*Some*, for hard masters, broken under arms,  
 In battle lopt away, with half their limbs,  
 Beg bitter bread thro' realms their valour sav'd,  
 If so the tyrant, or his minion, doom.  
*Want*, and incurable *disease*, (fell pair !)  
 Oa hopeless multitudes remorseless seize  
 At once ; and make a refuge of the grave.  
 How groaning *hospitals* eject their dead !  
 What numbers groan for sad admission there !  
 What numbers, once in *Fortune's* lap high-fed,  
 Solicit the cold hand of charity !  
 To shock us more, solicit it in vain !  
 Ye filken sons of pleasure ! since in pains  
 You rue more modish visits, visit *here*,  
 And breathe from your debauch : give, and reduce  
 Surfeit's dominion o'er you : but, so great  
 Your impudence, you blush at what is right !  
 Happy ! did sorrow seize on such alone.  
 Not *prudence* can defend, or *virtue* save ;  
 Disease invades the chaste temperance ;  
 And punishment the guiltless ; and alarm,  
 Thro' thickest shades, pursues the fond of peace.  
 Man's caution often into danger turns,

And

## I. On Life, Death, and Immortality. 11

And his guard falling, crushes him to death.  
Not *Happiness* itself makes good her name ;  
Our very wishes give us not our wish.  
How distant oft the thing we doat on most,  
From that for which we doat, *felicity*?  
The *smoothest* course of nature has its pains ;  
And *truest* friends, thro' error, wound our rest.  
Without misfortune, what calamities !  
And what hostilities, without a foe !  
Nor are foes wanting to the best on earth.  
But endless is the list of human ills,  
And sighs might sooner fail, than cause to sigh.

A part how small of the terraqueous globe  
Is tenanted by man ! the rest a *waste*,  
Rocks, desarts, frozen seas, and burring sands :  
Wild haunts of monsters, poisons, stings, and death.  
Such is earth's melancholy map ! But, far  
More sad ! this earth is a true map of *man*.  
So bounded are its haughty lord's delights .  
To *man*'s wide empire ; where deep *troubles* toss,  
*Loud sorrows* howl, invenom'd *passions* bite,  
*Rav'nous calamities* our vitals seize,  
And threat'ning fate wide opens to devour.

What then am I, who sorrow for myself ?  
In age, in infancy, from others aid  
Is all our hope ; to teach us to be *kind*.  
*That*, nature's first, *last* lesson to mankind ;  
The selfish heart deserves the pain it feels.  
More gen'rous sorrow, while it sinks, exalts ;

12      The COMPLAINT.   Night 1.

And conscious virtue mitigates the pang.  
Nor virtue, more than *prudence*, bids me give  
Swohn thought a *second* channel; who divide,  
They weaken too, the torrent of their grief.  
Take then, O world! thy much-indebted tear.  
How sad a sight is human happiness,      [hour!  
To those whose thought can pierce beyond an  
O thou! whate'er thou art! whose heart exults!  
Wouldst thou I should congratulate thy fate?  
I know thou wouldst; thy pride demands it from  
Let thy pride pardon, what thy nature needs, [me.  
The salutary censure of a friend.  
Thou happy *wretch*! by blindness art thou blest;  
By dotage dandled to perpetual smiles.  
Know, *smiler*! at thy peril art thou pleas'd:  
Thy pleasure is the promise of thy pain.  
*Misfortune*, like a creditor severe,  
But rises in demand for her delay;  
She makes a scourge of past prosperity,  
To sting thee more, and double thy distress.

LORENZO, Fortune makes her court to thee.  
Thy fond heart dances, while the *syren* sings.  
Dear is thy welfare; think me not unkind;  
I would not damp, but to secure thy joys.  
Think not that *fear* is sacred to the storm.  
Stand on thy guard against the *smiles* of fate.  
Is Heav'n tremendous in its frowns? Most sure;  
And in its favours formidable too:  
Its favours here are trials, not rewards;

A

## On Life, Death, and Immortality. 13

A call to duty, not discharge from care ;  
And should alarm us, full as much as woes ;  
Awake us to their *cause*, and *consequence* ;  
And make us tremble, weigh'd with our desert ;  
Awe nature's tumult, and chastise her joys,  
Lest while we clasp, we kill them ; nay, invert  
To worse than *simple* misery, their charms.  
Revolted joys, like foes in civil war,  
Like bosom friendships to resentment sour'd,  
With rage invenom'd rise against our peace.  
Beware what earth calls happiness ; beware  
All joys, but joys that never can expire.  
Who builds on less than an *immortal* base,  
Fond as he seems, condemns his joys to death.

Mine dy'd with thee, PHILANDER ! thy last sigh  
Dissolv'd the charm ; the disenchanted earth  
Lost all her lustre. Where, her glitt'ring towers ?  
Her golden mountains, where ? All darken'd down  
To naked waste ; a dreary vale of tears :  
The great magician's dead ! Thou poor, pale piece  
Of out-cast earth, in darkness ! what a change  
From yesterday ! thy darling hope so near,  
(Long-labour'd prize !) O how ambition flush'd  
Thy glowing cheek ! ambition truly great,  
Of virtuous praise. Death's subtle seed within,  
(Sly, treach'rous miner !) working in the dark,  
Smil'd at thy well-concerted scheme, and beckon'd  
The worm to riot on that rose so red,  
Unfaded ere it fell ; one moment's prey !

Man's

Man's foresight is conditionally wise ;  
LORENZO ! wisdom into folly turns,  
Oft, the first instant its idea fair  
To lab'ring thought is born. How dim our eye !  
The present moment terminates our sight ;  
Clouds, thick as those on doomsday, drown the  
We penetrate, we prophesy in vain. [next ;  
Time is dealt out by particles ; and each,  
Ere mingled with the streaming sands of life,  
By fate's inviolable oath is sworn  
Deep silence, " Where eternity begins."

By nature's law, what may be, may be now ;  
There's no prerogative in human hours.  
In human hearts what bolder thought can rise,  
Than man's presumption on to-morrow's dawn ?  
Where is to-morrow ? In another world.  
For numbers this is certain ; the reverse  
Is sure to none : and yet on this *Perhaps*,  
This *Peradventure*, infamous for lies,  
As on a rock of adamant we build  
Our mountain hopes ; spin out eternal schemes,  
As we the fatal sisters could out-spin,  
And, big with life's futurities, expire.

Not ev'n PHILANDER had bespoke his shroud,  
Nor had he cause, a warning was deny'd:  
How many fall as sudden, not as safe!  
As sudden, tho' for years admonish'd home.  
Of human ills the last extreme beware,  
Beware, LORENZO! a *slew* sudden death.

How

How dreadful that deliberate surprize !  
Be wise to-day ; 'tis madness to defer ;  
Next day the fatal precedent will plead ;  
Thus on, till wisdom is push'd out of life,  
*Procrastination* is the thief of time ;  
Year after year it steals, till all are fled,  
And to the mercies of a moment leaves  
The vast concerns of an eternal scene.  
If not so frequent, wosld not This be strange ?  
That 'tis so frequent, *This* is stranger still.

Of man's miraculous mistakes, this bears  
The palm, " That all men are about to live,"  
For ever on the brink of being born.  
All pay themselves the compliment to think  
They one day shall not drivel; and their pride  
On this reversion takes up ready praise ;  
At least, their own; their future selves applauds ;  
How excellent that life they ne'er will lead !  
Time lodg'd in their *own* hands is *folly*'s vails ;  
That lodg'd in *fate*'s, to *wisdom* they consign ;  
The thing they can't but *purpose*, they *postpone* :  
'Tis not in *folly*, not to scorn a fool ;  
And scarce in human *wisdom* to do more.  
All *promise* is poor dilatory man,  
And that thro' ev'ry stage : when young, indeed,  
In full content we, sometimes, nobly rest,  
Un-anxious for *ourselves*; and only wish,  
As duteous sons, our *fathers* were more wise.  
At thirty man *suspects* himself a fool ;

*Knows*

16 The COMPLAINT. Night I.

Knows it at forty, and reforms his plan ;  
At fifty chides his infamous delay ;  
Pushes his prudent purpose to *Resalve* ;  
In all the magnanimity of thought  
Resolves ; and re-resolves ; then dies the same.

And why ? Because he thinks himself immortal.  
All men think all men mortal, but themselves ;  
Themselves, when some alarming shock of fate  
Strikes thro' their wounded hearts the sudden  
dread ;

But their hearts wounded, like the wounded air,  
Soon close ; where past the shaft, no trace is found.  
As from the wing no scar the sky retains ;  
The parted wave no furrow from the keel ;  
So dies in human hearts the thought of death.  
Ev'n with the tender tear which nature sheds  
O'er those we love, we drop it in their grave.  
Can I forget PHILANDER ? That were strange !  
O my full heart ! — But should I give it vent,  
The longest night, tho' longer far, would fail,  
And the lark listen to my *midnight* song.

The sprightly lark's shrill matin wakes the morn.  
*Grief*'s sharpest thorn hard-pressing on my breast,  
I strive, with wakeful melody, to chear  
The sullen gloom, sweet *Philomel* ! like thee,  
And call the stars to listen : ev'ry star  
Is deaf to mine, enamour'd of thy lay.  
Yet be not vain ; there are, who thine excell,  
And charm thro' distant ages : wrapt in shade,

Pris'ne

On Life, Death, and Immortality. 17

Pris'ner of darkness ! to the silent hours,  
How often I repeat their rage divine,  
To lull my griefs, and steal my heart from woe !  
I roll their raptures, but not catch their fire.  
Dark, tho' not blind, like thee, *Mæonides* !  
Or, *Milton* ! thee ; ah could I reach your strain !  
Or *His*, who made *Mæonides* our own.  
*Man* too He sung : *immortal* man I sing ;  
Oft bursts my song beyond the bounds of life ;  
What, now, but immortality can please ?  
O had He pres'ld his theme, pursu'd the track,  
Which opens out of darkness into day !  
O had He mounted on his wing of fire,  
Soar'd, where I sink, and sung *immortal* man !  
How had it blest mankind, and rescu'd me !



T H E

THE  
C O M P L A I N T.

---

NIGHT the SECOND.  
ON  
TIME, DEATH, FRIENDSHIP.

Humbly Inscribed

To the RIGHT HONOURABLE  
The Earl of WILMINGTON.

---

"WHEN the cock crew, he wept"—Smote by  
that eye,  
Which looks on me, on All: that Pow'r, who bids  
*This* midnight sentinel, with clarion shrill,  
Emblem of that which shall awake the dead,  
Rouse souls from slumber, into thoughts of *Heaven*.  
Shall I too weep? Where then is fortitude?  
And, fortitude abandon'd, where is man?  
I know the terms on which he sees the light;  
He that is born, is listed; life is war;  
Eternal war with woe. Who bears it best,  
Deserves it least.—On other themes I'll dwell.  
LORENZO! let me turn *my* thoughts on thee,  
And *thine*, on themes may profit; profit there,

Where

Where most thy need. Themes, too, the genuine growth

Of dear PHILANDER's dust. He, *thus*, tho' dead,  
May still befriend—What themes? Time's wondrous price,

*Death, Friendship, and PHILANDER's final scene.*

So could I touch these themes, as might obtain  
Thine ear, nor leave thy heart quite disengag'd,  
The good deed would delight me; half impress  
On my dark cloud an *Iris*; and from grief

Call glory—Dost thou mourn PHILANDER's fate?

I know thou say'st it: Says thy life the same?

He mourns the dead, who lives as they desire.

Where is that thrift, that avarice of TIME,

(O glorious avarice!) thought cf death inspires,

As rumour'd robberies endear our gold?

O Time! than gold more sacred; more a load

Than lead, to fools; and fools reputed wise.

What moment granted man without account?

What years are squander'd, *wisdom's* debt unpaid!

Our wealth in days all due to *that* discharge.

Haste, haste, he lies in wait, he's at the door,

I sidious *Death*; should his strong hand arrest,

No composition sets the pris'ner free.

*Eternity's* inexorable chain

Fast binds; and vengeance claims the full arrear.

How late I shudder'd on the brink! how late

Life call'd for her last refuge in despair!

That Time is mine, O MEAD! to thee I owe;

Fain

Fain would I pay thee with *Eternity*.

But ill my genius answers my desire;

**C** My sickly song is mortal, past thy cure.

**C** Accept the will: that dies not with my strain.

— For what calls thy disease, LORENZO! Not  
For *Esculapian*, but for moral aid.

Thou think'st it folly to be wise too soon.

*Youth* is not rich in *time*; it may be, poor;

**T** Part with it as with money, sparing; pay  
No moment, but in purchase of its worth;  
And what its worth, ask death-beds; they can tell.  
Part with it as with life, reluctant; big

**T** With holy hope of nobler time to come;  
Time higher-aim'd, still nearer the great *mark*  
— Of men and angels; virtue more divine.

“ **I** Is this our *duty*, *wisdom*, *glory*, *gain*?

(These Heav'n benign in vital union binds)

**W** And sport we like the natives of the bough,

**T** When vernal suns inspire? *Amusement* reigns

**E** Man's great demand: to trifle is to live:

**R** And is it then a trifle, too, to die? —

**S** Thou say'st I preach, LORENZO! 'Tis confess.

**A** What, if for once, I preach thee quite *awake*?

**I** Who wants *amusement* in the flame of battle?

**H** Is it not treason to the soul *immortal*,

**E** Her foes in arms, eternity the prize?

**D** Will toys amuse, when med'cines cannot cure?

**L** When spirits ebb, when life's enchanting scenes

**A** Their lustre lose, and lessen in our sight,

(As

## On Time, Death, Friendship. 21

(As lands, and cities with their glitt'ring spires,  
To the poor shatter'd bark, by sudden storm  
Thrown off to sea, and soon to perish there)  
Will toys amuse?—No: thrones will then be toys,  
And earth and skies seem dust upon the scale.

Redeem we time!—its loss we dearly buy.  
What pleads LORENZO for his high-priz'd sports?  
He pleads time's num'rous blanks; he loudly pleads  
The straw-like trifles on life's common stream.  
From whom those blanks and trifles, but from thee?  
No blank, no trifle, nature made, or meant.  
Virtue, or purpos'd virtue, still be Thine;  
*This* cancels thy complaint at once; *This* leaves  
In act no trifle, and no blank in time.  
*This* greatens, fills, immortalizes All;  
*This*, the blest art of turning all to gold;  
*This*, the good heart's prerogative to raise  
A royal tribute, from the poorest hours.  
Immense revenue! ev'ry moment pays.  
If nothing more than purpose in thy power;  
Thy purpose firm, is equal to the deed:  
Who does the best his circumstance allows,  
Does well, acts nobly; angels could no more.  
Our outward act, indeed, admits restraint;  
'Tis not in things o'er thought to domineer;  
Guard well thy thought; our thoughts are heard  
in heaven.

On all-important Time, through ev'ry age,  
Tho' much, and warm, the wise have urg'd; the  
man Is

## 22 The COMPLAINT. Night 2.

Is yet unborn, who duly weighs an hour.

"*I've lost a day*"—The prince who nobly cry'd,  
Had been an emperor without his crown;  
Of Rome?—Say, rather, Lord of human race:  
He spoke, as if deputed by mankind.

So should all speak: so reason speaks in all:  
From the soft whispers of that God in man,  
Why fly to folly, why to phrensy fly,  
For rescue from the *blessings* we possess?  
*Time*, the supreme!—Time is eternity;  
Pregnant with all eternity can give;  
Pregnant with all, that makes archangels smile.  
Who murders Time, he crushes in the birth  
A pow'r ethereal, only *not* ador'd.

Ah! how unjust to nature, and himself,  
Is thoughtless, thankless, inconsistent man!  
Like children babbling nonsense in their sports,  
We censure nature for a span too short;  
That span too short, we tax as tedious too;  
Torture invention, all expedients tire,  
To lash the ling'ring moments into speed;  
And whirl us (happy riddance!) from ourselves.  
*Art*, brainless *Art*, our furious charioteer  
(For *nature's* voice unstifled woud recall)  
Drives headlong tow'rds the precipice of death;  
Death, most our dread; death *thus* more dreadful  
O what a riddle of absurdity! [made;  
*Leisure* is pain; takes off our chariot-wheels:  
How heavily we drag the load of life!

Blest leisure is our curse ; like that of Cain,  
 It makes us wander ; wander earth around  
 To fly that tyrant, thought. As *Atlas* groan'd  
 The world beneath, we groan beneath an hour.  
 We cry for mercy to the next amusement ;  
 The next amusement mortgages our fields ;  
 Slight inconvenience ! Prisons hardly frown,  
 From hateful *Time* if prisons set us free.  
 Yet when *Death* kindly tenders us relief,  
 We call him cruel ; years to moments shrink,  
 Ages to years. The telescope is turn'd.  
 To man's false optics (from his folly false)  
*Time*, in advance, behind him hides his wings,  
 And seems to creep, decrepit with his age ;  
 Behold him, when past by ; what then is seen,  
 But his broad pinions swifter than the winds ?  
 And all mankind, in contradiction strong,  
 Rueful, aghast ! cry out on his career.

Leave to thy foes these errors, and these ills ;  
 To nature just, their *cause* and *cure* explore.  
 Not short Heav'n's bounty ; boundless our expence :  
 No niggard, nature ; men are prodigals.  
 We waste, not use our time ; we breathe, not live,  
 Time wasted is existence, us'd is life.  
 And bare existence, man, to live ordain'd,  
 Wrings, and oppresses with enormous weight.  
 And why ? since *Time* was giv'n for use, not waste,  
 Injoin'd to fly ; with tempest, tide, and stars,  
 To keep his speed, nor ever wait for man.

24      The COMPLAINT.    Night

Time's use was doom'd a pleasure ; waste, a pain  
That man might *feel* his error, if unseen ;  
And, feeling, fly to labour for his cure ;  
Not, blund'ring, split on idleness, for ease.  
Life's cares are comforts ; such by Heav'n design'd  
He that has none, must make them, or be wretched  
Cares are employments ; and without employ  
The soul is on a rack ; the rack of rest,  
To souls most adverse ; action all their joy.

Here, then, the riddle, mark'd above, unfold  
Then time turns torment, when man turns a fool  
We rave, we wrestle, with great nature's plan  
We thwart the Deity ; and 'tis decreed,  
Who thwart his will, shall contradict their own  
Hence our unnatural quarrel with ourselves ;  
Our thoughts at enmity ; our bosom-broil ;  
We push Time from us, and we wish him back  
Lavish of lustrums, and yet fond of life ;  
Life we think long, and short ; Death seek, a shun  
Body and soul, like peevish man and wife, [shu] And b  
United jar, and yet are loth to part.

Oh the dark days of vanity ! while Here,  
How tasteless ! and how terrible, when gone !  
'Gone ? they ne'er go ; when past, they haunt  
The spirit walks of ev'ry day deceas'd, [si] Was 2  
And smiles an angel, or a fury frowns.  
Nor death, nor life, delight us. If time past,  
And time possess, both pain us, what can please  
That which the Deity to please ordain'd,

## On Time, Death, Friendship. 25

Time us'd. The man who consecrates his hours  
By vig'rous effort, and an honest aim,  
At once he draws the sting of life and death ;  
**H**e walks with Nature, and her paths are peace.  
Our error's cause and cure are seen : See next  
**T**ime's nature, origin, importance, speed ;  
And thy great gain from urging his career.—  
All-sensual man, because untouched, unseen,  
He looks on Time as nothing. Nothing else  
Is truly man's ; 'tis fortune's.—Time's a god.  
**H**ast thou ne'er heard of Time's omnipotence ?  
**F**or, or against, what wonders can he do !  
And will : To stand blank neuter he disdains,  
Not on those terms was Time (Heav'n's stranger !)  
**O**n his important embassy to man. [sent  
**L**ORENZO ! no : On the long-destin'd hour,  
From everlasting ages growing ripe,  
That memorable hour of wond'rous birth,  
When the dread Sire, on emanation bent,  
And big with nature, rising in his might,  
Call'd forth creation (for then Time was born),  
By Godhead streaming thro' a thousand worlds ;  
Not on those terms, from the great days of heaven,  
From old Eternity's mysterious orb,  
Was Time cut off, and cast beneath the skies ;  
The skies, which watch him in his new abode,  
Measuring his motions by revolving spheres ;  
That horologe machinery divine. [play,  
Hours, days, and months, and years, his children,

C

Like

26      The C O M P L A I N T .      Night 2.

Like num'rous wings around him, as he flies :  
Or, rather, as unequal plumes they shape  
His ample pinions, swift as darted flame,  
To gain his goal, to reach his antient rest,  
And join anew *Eternity* his fire ;  
In his *immutability* to nest,  
When worlds, that count his circles *now*, unking'd,  
(Fate the loud signal sounding) headlong rush  
To *timeless* night, and chaos, whence they rose.  
Why spur the speedy ? Why with levities  
New-wing thy short, short day's too rapid flight ?  
Know'st thou, or what thou dost, or what is done ?  
Man flies from *Time*, and *Time* from man ; too soon  
In sad divorce this double flight must end :  
And then, where are we ? Where, LORENZO ! then,  
Thy sports ? thy pomps ?—I grant thee, in a state  
Not unambitious ; in the *ruffled* shroud,  
Thy *Parian* tomb's *triumphant arch* beneath.  
Has *Death* his fopperies ? Then well may *Life*  
Put on her plume, and in her rainbow shine.

Ye well-array'd ! Ye lilies of our land !  
Ye lilies *male* ! who neither toil, nor spin,  
(As sister lilies *might*) if not so wise  
As *Solomon*, more sumptuous to the sight !  
Ye delicate ! who nothing can support,  
Yourselves most insupportable ! for whom  
The winter rose must blow, the sun put on  
A brighter beam in *Leo* ; silky-soft  
*Favenius* breathe full softer, or be chid ;

And other worlds send odours, fawce, and song,  
And robes, and notions, fram'd in foreign looms !  
O ye LORENZOS of our age ; who deem  
One moment usamus'd, a misery  
Not made for feeble man ! who call aloud  
For ev'ry bawble, drivell'd o'er by sense ;  
For rattles, and conceits of ev'ry cast ;  
For change of follies, and relays of joy,  
To drag your patient thro' the tedious length  
Of a short winter's day—say, sages ! say,  
Wit's oracles ! say, dreamers of gay dreams !  
How will you weather an eternal night,  
Where such expedients fail ?

O treach'rrous conscience ! while she seems to sleep  
On rose and myrtle, lull'd with syren song ;  
While she seems, nodding o'er her charge, to drop  
On headlong appetite the slacken'd rein,  
And give us up to licence, unrecall'd,  
Unmark'd ;—See, from behind her secret stand,  
The fly informer minutes ev'ry fault,  
And her dread diary with horror fills.  
Not the gross *act* alone employs her pen ;  
She reconnoitres *fancy*'s airy band,  
A watchful foe ! The formidable spy,  
List'ning, o'erhears the whispers of our camp ;  
Our dawning purposes of heart explores,  
And steals our embryos of iniquity.  
As all-rapacious usurers conceal  
Their doomsday-book from all-consuming heirs :

## 28      The COMPLAINT.   Night 2.

Thus, with indulgence most severe, she treats  
Us spendthrifts of inestimable *Time* ;  
Unnoted, notes each moment misapply'd ;  
In leaves more durable than leaves of brass,  
Writes our whole history ; which *Death* shall read  
In ev'ry pale delinquent's private ear ;  
And *Judgment* publish ; publish to more worlds  
Than this ; and endless age in groans resound.  
*LORENZO*, such that *sleeper* in thy breast !  
Such is her slumber ; and her vengeance such  
For slighted counsel ; such thy future peace !  
And think'st thou still thou canst be wise *too soon* ?

But why on *Time* so lavish is my song ?  
On this great *theme* kind *nature* keeps a school,  
To teach her sons herself. Each night we die,  
Each morn are born anew : Each day a life !  
And shall we kill each day ? If *trifling* kills ;  
Sure *vice* must butcher. O what heaps of slain  
Cry out for vengeance on us ! *Time* destroy'd  
Is *suicide*, where more than *blood* is spilt.  
*Time* flies, death urges, knells call, *Heav'n* invites,  
*Hell* threatens ; all exerts ; in effort all ;  
More than creation labours ! — Labours more ?  
And is there in creation, what, amidst  
This tumult universal, wing'd dispatch,  
And ardent energy, supinely yawns ? —  
*Man* sleeps ; and *man* alone ; and *man*, whose fate,  
Fate irreversible, intire, extreme,  
Endless, hair-hung, breeze-shaken, o'er the gulph

A

A moment trembles; drops! and *man*, for whom  
All else is in alarm; *man*, the sole cause  
Of this surrounding storm! and yet he sleeps,  
As the storm rock'd to rest—Throw *years* away?  
Throw *empires*, and be blameless. Moments seize:  
Heav'n's on their wing: a moment we may wish,  
When worlds want wealth to buy. Bid *day* stand  
still,

Bid him drive back his car, and reimport  
The period past, regive the given hour.

**LORENZO**, more than miracles we want;  
**LORENZO**—O for yesterdays to come!

Such is the language of the man *awake*;  
His ardor such, for what *oppresses* thee.  
**And** is his ardor vain, **LORENZO**? No;  
That *more* than miracle the gods indulge;  
*To-day* is *yesterday* return'd; return'd  
Full-pow'r'd to cancel, expiate, raise, adorn,  
And reinstate us on the rock of peace.

Let it not share its predecessor's fate;  
Nor, like its elder Sisters, die a fool.

Shall it evaporate in fume? Fly off  
Fuliginous, and stain us deeper still?  
Shall we be poorer for the plenty pour'd?  
More wretched for the clemencies of Heav'n?

Where shall I find Him? Angels! tell me where.  
*You* know Him; He is near you: Point him out:  
Shall I see glories beaming from his brow?  
Or trace his footsteps by the rising flow'rs?

## 30      The COMPLAINT.   Night 2.

Your golden wings, now hov'ring o'er him, fled  
Protection; now, are waving in applause  
To that blest son of foresight! lord of fate!  
That awful independent on *to-morrow*!  
Whose *work is done*, who triumphs in the *past*;  
Whose *yesterdays* look backwards with a smile;  
Nor, like the *Partbrian*, wound him as they fly;  
That common, but opprobrious lot! Past hours,  
If not by guilt, yet wound us by their flight,  
If folly bounds our prospect by the grave,  
All feeling of futurity benumb'd;  
All god-like passion for eternals quench'd;  
All relish of realities expir'd;  
Renounc'd all correspondence with the skies;  
Our freedom chain'd; quite wingless our desire;  
In sense dark-prison'd All that ought to soar;  
Prone to the centre, crawling in the dust;  
Dismounted ev'ry great and glorious aim;  
Embruted ev'ry faculty divine;  
Heart-bury'd in the rubbish of the world.  
The world, that gulph of souls, immortal souls,  
Souls elevate, angelic, wing'd with fire  
To reach the distant skies, and triumph there  
On thrones, which shall not mourn their masters  
chang'd;  
Tho' we from *earth*; *ethereal*, they that fell.  
Such veneration due, O man, to man.  
Who venerate themselves, the world despise.  
For what, gay fiend! is this *escutcheon'd* world,  
Which

On Time, Death, Friendship. 31

Which hangs out DEATH in one eternal night?  
A night, that glooms us in the noon-tide ray,  
And wraps our thought, at banquets, in the shroud.  
Life's little stage is a small eminence,  
Inch-high the grave above ; that home of man,  
Where dwells the multitude : we gaze around ;  
We read their monuments ; we sigh ; and while  
We sigh, we sink ; and *are* what we deplo'red ;  
Lamenting, or lamented, all our lot !

Is death at distance? No : He has been on thee ;  
And giv'n sure earnest of his final blow. [now ?  
Those hours, which lately smil'd, where are they  
Pallid to thought, and ghastly ! drown'd, all  
drown'd,

In that great deep, which nothing disembogues ;  
And, dying, they bequeath'd thee small renown.  
The rest are on the wing ; how fleet their flight !  
Already has the fatal train took fire ;  
A moment, and the world's blown up *to thee* ;  
The sun is darkness, and the stars are dust.

'Tis greatly wise to talk with our past hours ;  
And ask them, what report they bore to Heaven ;  
And how they might have borne more welcome  
news.

Their answers form what men *experience* call ;  
If *wisdom*'s friend, her best ; if not, worst foe.  
O reconcile them ! Kind *experience* cries, [weighs ;  
" There's nothing here, but what as nothing  
" The more our joy, the more we know it vain ;

32 The COMPLAINT. Night 2.

" And by success are tutor'd to despair."

Nor is it only thus, but *must* be so.

Who knows not this, tho' grey, is still a child,

Loose then from earth the grasp of fond desire,

Weigh anchor, and some happier clime explore.

Art thou so moor'd thou canst not disengage,

Nor give thy thoughts a ply to future scenes?

Since, by *life's* passing breath, blown up from earth,

Light, as the summer's dust, we take in air

A moment's giddy flight, and fall again;

Join the dull mass, increase the trodden soil,

And sleep till earth herself shall be no more;

Since *then* (as emmets, their small world o'erthrown)

We, sore-amaz'd, from out earth's ruins crawl,

And rise to fate extreme of foul or fair,

As man's own choice (controuler of the skies!)

As man's despotic will, perhaps *one* hour,

(O how omnipotent is Time!) decrees;

Should not each *warning* give a strong alarm?

*Warning*, far less than that of bosom torn

From bosom, bleeding o'er the sacred dead!

Should not each *dial* strike us as we pass,

Portentous, as the *written wall*, which struck,

O'er midnight bowls, the proud *Affyrian* pale,

Ere-while high-flusht with insolence and wine?

Like *that*, the dial speaks; and points to thee,

LORENZO! loth to break thy banquet up;

" O man, thy kingdom is departing from thee;

" And,

' And, while it lasts, is emptier than my shade.'  
Its silent language such : nor need'st thou call  
*Thy Magi*, to decypher what it means.  
Know, like the *Median*, fate is in thy walls :  
Dost ask, *How? Whence?* *Belshazzar*-like, amaz'd!  
Man's make incloses the sure seeds of death ;  
*Life* feeds the murderer ; *Ingrate!* he thrives  
On her own meal, and then his nurse devours.

But, here, **LORENZO**, the delusion lies ;  
That *solar shadow*, as it measures life,  
It life resembles too : Life speeds away  
From point to point, tho' seeming to stand still.  
The cunning fugitive is swift by stealth :  
Too subtle is the movement to be seen ;  
Yet soon man's hour is up, and we are gone :  
*Warnings* point out our danger ; *gnomous*, time :  
As *these* are useless when the sun is set ;  
So *those*, but when more glorious *reason* shines.  
*Reason* should judge in all ; in reason's eye,  
That sedentary shadow travels hard.  
But such our gravitation to the wrong,  
So prone our hearts to whisper what we wish,  
'Tis later with the wise, than he's aware ;  
*A Wilmington* goes slower than the sun ;  
And all mankind mistake their time of day :  
Ev'n age itself. Fresh hopes are hourly sown  
In furrow'd brows. So gentle life's descent,  
We shut our eyes, and think it is a plain.  
We take fair days in winter, for the spring ;



Thought in the mine, may come forth gold or dross ;  
 When coin'd in word, we know its *real* worth.  
 If sterling, store it for thy future use ;  
 'Twill buy thee benefit ; perhaps, renown.  
 Thought, too, deliver'd, is the more possest ;  
 Teaching, we learn ; and, giving, we retain  
 The births of intellect ; when dumb, forgot.  
*Speech* ventilates our intellectual fire ;  
*Speech* burnishes our mental magazine ;  
 Brightens, for ornament ; and whets, for use.  
 What numbers, sheath'd in erudition, lie  
 Plung'd to the hilts in venerable tomes,  
 And rusted in ; who might have borne an edge,  
 And play'd a sprightly beam, if born to speech ;  
 If born blest heirs of half their mother's tongue !  
'Tis thought's exchange, which, like th' alternate  
 push

Of waves conflicting, breaks the learned scum,  
 And defecates the student's standing pool.

In *contemplation* is his proud resource ?  
 'Tis poor, as proud, by *converse* unsustain'd.  
 Rude thought runs wild in *contemplation*'s field ;  
*Converse*, the menage, breaks it to the bit  
 Of due restraint ; and *emulation*'s spur  
 Gives graceful energy, by rivals aw'd.  
 'Tis *converse* qualifies for solitude ;  
 As exercise, for salutary rest.  
 By That untutor'd, *contemplation* raves ;  
 And *nature*'s fool, by *wisdom*'s is outdone.

36      The COMPLAINT.   Night 2.

*Wisdom*, tho' richer than Peruvian mines,  
And sweeter than the sweet ambrosial hive,  
What is she, but the means of *happiness*?  
*That* unobtain'd, than folly more a fool;  
*A* melancholy fool, without her bells.

*Friendship*, the means of wisdom, richly gives  
The precious end, which makes our wisdom wise.  
*Nature*, in zeal for human amity,  
Denies, or damps, an *undivided* joy.

*Joy* is an *import*; *joy* is an exchange;  
*Joy* flies monopolists: it calls for *two*;  
Rich fruit! heav'n-planted! never pluck'd by *one*.  
Needful auxiliars are our friends, to give  
*To social* man true relish of himself.

Full on ourselves descending in a line,  
*Pleasure*'s bright beam is feeble in delight:  
Delight intense is taken by rebound;  
Reverberated pleasures fire the breast.

Celestial *Happiness*, whene'er she stoops  
To visit earth, one shrine the goddes's finds,  
And one alone, to make her sweet amends,  
For absent Heav'n—the bosom of a friend;  
Where heart meets heart, reciprocally soft,  
Each other's pillow to repose divine.  
Beware the counterfeit: in *passion*'s flame  
Hearts melt; but melt like ice, soon harder froze.  
True love strikes root in *reason*; *passion*'s foe:  
*Virtue* alone entenders us for life:  
*I* wrong her much—entenders us for ever.

Of

Of *Friendship's* fairest fruits, the fruit most fair  
 Is virtue kindling at a rival fire,  
 And, emulously, rapid in her race.  
 O the soft enmity! endearing strife!  
 This carries friendship to her noon-tide point,  
 And gives the rivet of eternity. [themes,

From *Friendship*, which outlives my former,  
 Glorious survivor of old *Time*, and *Death*!  
 From friendship, thus, that flow'r of heav'nly seed,  
 The wise extract earth's most *Hyblean* bliss,  
 Superior wisdom, crown'd with smiling joy.

But for whom blossoms this *Elysian* flower?  
 Abroad They find, who cherish it at home.  
 LORENZO! pardon what my love extorts,  
 An honest love, and not afraid to frown.  
 Tho' choice of follies fasten on the great,  
 None clings more obstinate, than fancy fond,  
 That sacred friendship is their easy prey;  
 Caught by the wafture of a golden lure;  
 Or fascination of a high-born smile.  
 Their smiles the great, and the coquet, throw out  
 For others hearts, tenacious of their own;  
 And we no less of ours, when such the bait.  
 Ye fortune's offerers! Ye pow'rs of wealth!  
 Can gold gain friendship? Impudence of hope!  
 As well mere man an angel might beget.  
 Love, and love only, is the loan for love.  
 LORENZO! pride repress; nor hope to find  
 A friend, but what has found a friend in thee.

All

All like the purchase ; few the price will pay ;  
And this makes friends such miracles below.

What if (since daring on so nice a theine)  
I shew thee friendship delicate, as dear,  
Of tender violations apt to die ?  
*Reserve* will wound it ; and *distrust* destroy.  
Deliberate on all things with thy friend :  
But since friends grow not thick on ev'ry bough,  
Nor ev'ry friend unrotten at the core ;  
First, on thy friend, delib'rate with thyself ;  
Pause, ponder, fist ; not eager in the choice,  
Nor jealous of the chosen ; fixing, fix ;  
Judge before friendship, then confide till death.  
Well, for thy friend ; but nobler far, for thee ;  
How gallant danger for earth's highest prize !  
A friend is worth all hazards we can run.  
“ Poor is the friendless master of a world :  
“ A world in purchase for a friend is gain.”

So sung he (angels hear that angel sing ;  
Angels from friendship gather half their joy)  
So sung PHILANDER, as his friend went round  
In the rich *ichor*, in the gen'rous blood  
Of BACCHUS, purple god of joyous wit,  
A brow solute, and ever-laughing eye.  
He drank long health, and virtue, to his friend ;  
His friend, who warm'd him more, who more  
inspir'd.

*Friendship*'s the wine of life ; but *Friendship new*  
(Not such was his) is neither strong, nor pure.

O for the bright complexion, cordial warmth,  
 And elevating spirit, of a Friend,  
 For twenty summers rip'ning by my side ;  
 All feculence of falsehood long thrown down ;  
 All social virtues rising in his soul ;  
 As crystal clear ; and smiling, as they rise !  
*Here* nectar flows ; it sparkles in our sight ;  
 Rich to the taste, and genuine from the heart.  
 High-flavour'd bliss for gods ! on earth how rare !  
 On earth how *lost* ! — PHILANDER is no more.

Think'st thou the theme intoxicates my song ?  
 Am I too warm ? — Too warm I cannot be.  
 I lov'd him much ; but now I love him more.  
 Like birds, whose beauties languish, half conceal'd,  
 Till, mounted on the wing, their glossy plumes  
 Expanded shine with azure, green, and gold ;  
 How blessings brighten as they take their flight !  
 His flight PHILANDER took ; his upward flight,  
 If ever soul ascended. Had he dropt,  
 (That eagle genius !) O had he let fall  
 One feather as he flew ; I, then, had wrote  
 What friends might flatter ; prudent foes forbear ;  
 Rivals scarce damn ; and ZOILUS reprieve.  
 Yet what I can, I must : it were profane  
 To quench a glory lighted at the skies,  
 And cast in shadows his illustrious close.  
 Strange ! the theme most affecting, most sublime,  
 Momentous most to man, should sleep unsung !  
 And yet it sleeps, by genius unawak'd,

40      The COMPLAINT.   Night 2.

Painim or Christian ; to the blush of wit.

Man's highest triumph ! man's profoundest fall !

The Death bed of the Just ! is yet undrawn

By mortal hand : it merits a divine :

Angels should paint it, angels ever there !

There, on a post of honour, and of joy.

Dare I presume, then ? But PHILANDER bids ;

And glory tempts, and inclination calls —

Yet am I struck ; as struck the soul, beneath

Aëreal groves impenetrable gloom ;

Or, in some mighty ruin's solemn shade ;

Or, gazing by pale lamps on high-born dust,

In vaults ; thin courts of poor unflatter'd kings !

Or, at the midnight altar's hallow'd flame.

It is religion to proceed : I pause —

And enter, aw'd, the temple of my theme.

Is it his death-bed ? No ; it is his shrine :

Behold him, there, just rising to a God.

The chamber where the good man meets his

Is privileg'd beyond the common walk      [fate,

Of virtuous life, quite in the verge of heav'n.

Fly, ye profane ! if not, draw near with awe,

Receive the blessing, and adore the chance,

That threw in this Bethesda your disease :

If unrestor'd by This, despair your cure.

For, here, resistless démonstration dwells :

A death-bed's a detector of the heart.

Here tir'd dissimulation drops her masque,

Thro' life's grimace, that mistress of the scene !

Here real, and apparent, are the same.

You see the *man*; you see his hold on heav'n;

If sound his virtue; as PHILANDER's, sound.

Heav'n waits not the last moment; owns her friends

On this side death; and points them out to men,

A lecture, silent, but of sov'reign pow'r!

To vice, confusion; and to virtue, peace.

Whatever farce the boastful hero plays,

Virtue alone has majesty in death;

And greater still, the more the tyrant frowns.

PHILANDER! he severely frown'd on thee.

"No warning giv'n! Unceremonious fate!

"A sudden rush from life's meridian joys!

"A wrench from all we *love*! from all we *are*!

"A restless bed of pain, a plunge opaque

"Beyond conjecture! Feeble *nature's* dread!

"Strong *reason's* shudder at the dark unknown!

"A sun extinguish'd! a just op'ning grave!

"And Oh! the last, last; what? (can words express?)

"Thought reach it?) the last—*silence* of a friend?"

Where are those horrors, that amazement, where,

This hideous group of ills, which singly shock,

Demand from man?—I thought him man till now.

Thro' *nature's* wreck, thro' vanquish'd agonies,

(Like the stars struggling thro' this midnight gloom)

What gleams of joy? what more than human peace?

Where, the frail mortal? the poor abject worm?

No, not in death, the *mortal* to be found.

His

## 42 The COMPLAINT. Night 2.

His conduct is a legacy for All.  
 Richer than Mammon's for his single heir.  
 His comforters he comforts; great in ruin,  
 With unreluctant grandeur, *gives*, not *yields*  
 His soul sublime; and closes with his fate.

How our hearts burnt within us at the scene!  
 Whence, this brave bound o'er limits fixt to man!  
 His God sustains him in his final hour!  
 His final hour brings glory to his God!  
 Man's glory Heav'n vouchsafes to call her own.  
 We gaze; we weep; mixt tears of grief and joy!  
 Amazement strikes! devotion bursts to flame!  
*Christians* adore! and *Infidels* believe.

As some tall tow'r, or lofty mountain's brow,  
 Detains the sun, illustrious from its height;  
 While rising vapours, and descending shades,  
 With damps, and darkness, drown the spacious vale;  
 Undamp'd by doubt, undarken'd by despair,  
 PHILANDER, thus, augustly rears his head,  
 At that black hour, which gen'ral horror sheds  
 On the low level of th' inglorious throng:  
 Sweet *peace*, and heav'nly *hope*, and humble *joy*,  
 Divinely beam on his exalted soul;  
 Destruction gild, and crown him for the skies,  
 With incommunicable lustre, bright.

THE

THE

## COMPLAINT.

NIGHT the THIRD.

NARCISSA.

Humbly Inscribed to Her GRACE

The DUCHESS of P——.

*Ignoscenda quidem, scirent si ignoscere manes.*

VIRG.

**F**ROM dreams, where thought in fancy's maze  
runs mad,

To reason, that heav'n-lighted lamp in man,  
Once more I wake ; and at the destin'd hour,  
Punctual as lovers to the moment sworn,  
I keep my assignation with my woe.

O ! lost to virtue, lost to manly thought,  
Lost to the noble fallies of the soul !  
Who think it solitude to be alone.

Communion sweet ! communion large, and high !  
Our Reason, Guardian Angel, and our God !  
Then nearest these, when others most remote ;  
And all, ere long, shall be remote, but these.  
How dreadful, then, to meet them all alone,

## 44      The COMPLAINT. Night 3

A stranger ! unacknowledg'd ! unapprov'd ! A stra  
*Now* woo them ; wed them ; bind them to th<sup>t</sup> Trans  
 To win thy wish, creation has no more. [breast What  
 Or if we wish a *fourth*, it is a friend — CYNTHIA  
 But friends, how mortal ! Dang'rous the desire. With  
 Take PHOEBUS to yourselves, ye basking bards Is tha  
 Inebriate at fair Fortune's fountain-head ; More  
 And reeling thro' the wilderness of joy ; Come  
 Where *sense* runs savage, broke from *reason*'s chain, The  
 And sings false peace, till smother'd by the pall. The  
 My fortune is unlike ; unlike my song ; (For  
 Unlike the Deity my song invokes.  
 I to *Day*'s soft-ey'd sister pay my court, If,  
 (*ENDYMION*'s rival !) and her aid implore ; And  
 Now first implor'd in succour to the *muse*. [form, A

Thou, who didst lately borrow \* CYNTHIA'S Soft  
 And modestly forego thine own ! O Thou, A t  
 Who didst thyself, at midnight hours, inspire ! 'Tw  
 Say, why not CYNTHIA, patroness of song ? A  
 As thou her crescent, she thy character Th  
 Assumes ; still more a goddess by the change. NA  
 W

Are there dimurring wits, who dare dispute  
 This revolution in the world *inspir'd* ? T  
 Ye train Pierian ! to the *lunar* sphere,  
 In silent hour, address your ardent call  
 For aid immortal ; less her brother's right. H  
 She, with the spheres harmonious, nightly leads  
 The mazy dance, and hears their matchless strain, S

\* At the Duke of Norfolk's masquerade.

! A strain for gods ! deny'd to mortal ear.  
to th~~Transmit~~ it heard, thou silver queen of heav'n !  
breast What title, or what name, endears thee most ?

CYNTHIA ! CYLLENE ! PHOEBE !—or dost hear  
desire. With higher gust, fair P—d of the skies ?  
boards Is that the soft enchantment calls thee down,

More pow'rful than of old *Circean* charm ?

Come ; but from heav'nly banquets with thee bring  
chain, The soul of song ; and whisper in mine ear  
pall, The theft divine ; or in propitious dreams  
(For dreams are thine) transfuse it thro' the breast  
Of thy first votary——But not thy last ;  
If, like thy *namesake*, thou art ever kind.

And kind thou wilt be ; kind on such a theme ;  
form, A theme so like thee, a quite *lunar* theme,  
HIA's Soft, modest, melancholy, female, fair !

A theme that rose all pale, and told my soul,  
'Twas night ; on her fond hopes perpetual night ;  
A night which struck a damp, a deadlier damp,  
Than that which smote me from PHILANDER's  
NARCISSA follows, ere his tomb is clos'd. [tomb.  
Woes cluster ; rare are *solitary* woes ;  
They love a train, they tread each other's heel ;  
*Her* death invades *his* mournful right, and claims  
The grief that started from my lids for him :  
Seizes the faithless, alienated tear,  
Or shares it, ere it falls. So frequent death,  
Sorrow, he *more* than causes, he confounds ;  
For human sighs his rival strokes contend,

And

And make distress, distraction. Oh PHILANDER !  
What was thy fate ? A double fate to me ;  
Portent, and pain ! a menace, and a blow !  
Like the black raven hov'ring o'er my peace,  
Not less a bird of omen, than of prey.

It call'd NARCISSA long before her hour ;  
It call'd her tender soul, by break of bliss,  
From the first blossom, from the buds of joy ;  
Those few our noxious fate unblasted leaves,  
In this inclement clime of human life.

Sweet harmonist ! and beautiful as sweet !  
And young as beautiful ! and soft as young !  
And gay as soft ! and innocent as gay !  
**A**nd happy (if aught happy *here*) as good !  
For Fortune fond had built her nest on high.  
Like birds quite exquisite of note and plume,  
Transfixt by *fate* (who loves a lofty mark)  
How from the summit of the grove she fell,  
And left it unharmonious ! All its charm  
Extinguiſht in the wonders of her song !  
Her song still vibrates in my ravish't ear,  
Still melting there, and with voluptuous pain  
(O to forget her !) thrilling thro' my heart !  
Song, beauty, youth, love, virtue, joy ! this group  
Of bright ideas, flow'rs of paradise,  
As yet unforfeit ! in one blaze we bind,  
Kneel, and present it to the skies ; as all  
We guesſ of heav'n : And these were all her own.  
And she was mine ; and I was—was most bleſt—

Gay

Gay title of the deepest misery !

As bodies grow more pond'rous, robb'd of life ;

*Good* lost weighs more in grief, than gain'd, in joy.

Like blossom'd trees o'erturn'd by vernal storm,

Lovely in death the beauteous ruin lay ;

And if in death still lovely, lovelier there ;

Far lovelier ! Pity swells the tide of love.

And will not the severe excuse a sigh ?

Scorn the proud man that is ashame'd to weep :

Our tears *indulg'd* indeed deserve our shame,

Ye that e'er lost an angel ! pity me.

Soon as the lustre languish'd in her eye,

Dawning a dimmer day on human sight ;

And on her cheek, the residence of spring,

Pale omen sat ; and scatter'd fears around

On all that saw (and who would cease to gaze,

That once had seen ?) with haste, parental haste,

I flew, I snatch'd her from the rigid north,

Her native bed, on which bleak *Boreas* blew,

And bore her nearer to the sun ; the sun

(As if the sun could envy) checkt his beam,

Deny'd his wonted succour, nor with more

Regret beheld her drooping, than the bells

Of lilies ; Fairest lilies not so fair.

Queen lilies ! and ye painted populace !

Who dwell in fields, and lead ambrosial lives ;

In morn and ev'ning dew your beauties bathe,

And drink the sun ; which gives your cheeks to

And out-blush (*mine* excepted) ev'ry fair; [glow,

You

## 48      The COMPLAINT.    Night 3.

You gladlier grew, ambitious of her hand,  
 Which often cropt your odours, incense meet  
 To thought so pure! Ye lovely fugitives!  
 Coæval race with man! for man you smile;  
 Why not smile *at* him too? You share indeed  
 His sudden pâs; but not his constant pain.

So man is made, nought ministers delight,  
 But what his glowing passions can engage;  
 And glowing passions, bent on aught below,  
 Must, soon or late, with anguish turn the scale;  
 And anguish, after rapture, how severe!  
 Rapture? bold man! who tempts the wrath divine,  
 By plucking fruit deny'd to mortal taste,  
 While *here*, presuming on the rights of heaven,  
 For transport dost thou call on ev'ry hour,  
 LORENZO? At thy friend's expence be wise;  
 Lean not on earth; 'twill pierce thee to the heart;  
 A broken reed, at best; but oft, a spear;  
 On its sharp point peace bleeds, and hope expires.

Turn, hopeless thought! turn from her:—

Thought repell'd,  
 Resenting rallies, and wakes ev'ry woe.  
 Snatch'd ere thy prime! and in thy bridal hour!  
 And when kind fortune, with thy lover, smil'd!  
 And when high-flavour'd thy fresh-op'ning joys!  
 And when blind man pronounc'd thy bliss complete!  
 And on a foreign shore; where strangers wept!  
 Strangers to Thee; and, more surprising still,  
 Strangers to kindness, wept: Their eyes let fall

Inhuman

Inhuman tears; strange tears! that trickled down  
 From marble hearts! obdurate tenderness!  
 A tenderness that call'd them more severe;  
 In spite of nature's soft persuasion, steel'd;  
 While *nature melted, superstition rav'd;*  
*That mourn'd the dead; and this deny'd a grave.*

Their sighs incenst; sighs foreign to the will!  
 Their will the tyger suckt, outrag'd the storm.  
 For Oh! the curst ungodliness of zeal!  
 While *sinful flesh relented, spirit nurst*  
*In blind infallibility's embrace,*  
*The sainted spirit, petrify'd the breast;*  
*Deny'd the charity of dust, to spread*  
*O'er dust! a charity their dogs enjoy.*  
 What could I do? what succour? what resource?  
 With pious sacrilege, a grave I stole;  
 With impious piety, that grave I wrong'd;  
 Short in my duty; coward in my grief!  
 More like her murderer, than friend, I crept,  
 With soft-suspended step; and, muffled deep  
 In midnight darkness, *whisper'd* my last sigh.  
 I *whisper'd* what should echo thro' their realms;  
 Nor writ her name, whose tomb should pierce the  
 skies.

Presumptuous fear! how durst I dread her foes,  
 While nature's loudest dictates I obey'd?  
 Pardon necessity, blest shade! Of grief  
 And indignation rival bursts I pour'd;  
 Half-execration mingled with my prayer;

## 50      The COMPLAINT. Night 3.

Kindled at man, while I his God ador'd ;  
 Sore grudg'd the savage land her sacred dust ;  
 Stamped the curst soil ; and with humanity  
 (Deny'd NARCISSA) wisht them all a grave.

Glows my resentment into guilt ? What guilt  
 Can equal violations of the dead ?  
 'The dead how sacred ! Sacred is the dust  
 Of this heav'n-labour'd form, erect, divine !  
 This heav'n-assum'd majestic robe of earth,  
*He* deign'd to wear, who hung the vast expanse  
 With azure bright, and cloath'd the sun in gold.  
 When ev'ry passion sleeps that can offend ;  
 When strikes us ev'ry motive that can melt ;  
 When man can wreak his rancour uncontrol'd,  
 That strongest curb on insult and ill-will ;  
*Then*, spleen to *dust* ? the dust of innocence ?  
 An angel's dust ! — This *Lucifer* transcends ;  
 When he contended for the patriarch's bones,  
 'Twas not the strife of malice, but of pride ;  
 The strife of pontiff pride, not pontiff gall.

Far less than this is shocking in a race  
 Most wretched, but from streams of mutual love ;  
 And uncreated but for love divine ;  
 And, but for love divine, this moment, lost,  
 By fate resorb'd, and sunk in endless night.  
 Man hard of heart to man ! Of horrid things  
 Most horrid ! Mid stupendous, highly strange !  
 Yet oft his courtesies are smoother wrongs ;  
 Pride brandishes the favours he confers,

And contumelious his humanity :

What then his vengeance ? Hear it not, ye stars !  
And thou, pale moon ! turn paler at the sound ;  
Man is to man the sorest, surest ill.  
A previous blast foretels the rising storm ;  
O'erwhelming turrets threaten ere they fall ;  
Volcano's bellow ere they disembogue ;  
Earth trembles ere her yawning jaws devour ;  
And smoke betrays the wide-consuming fire :  
Ruin from man is most conceal'd when near,  
And sends the dreadful tidings in the blow.  
Is this the flight of fancy ? Would it were !  
Heav'n's Sov'reign saves all beings but Himself,  
That hideous sight, a naked human heart.

Fir'd is the muse ? And let the muse be fir'd :  
Who not inflam'd, when what he speaks, he feels,  
And in the nerve most tender, in his friends ?  
Shame to mankind ! PHILANDER had his foes ;  
He felt the truths I sing, and I in him.  
But he, nor I, feel more : past ills, NARCISSA !  
Are sunk in thee, thou recent wound of heart !  
Which bleeds with other cares, with other pangs ;  
Pangs num'rous, as the num'rous ills that swarm'd  
O'er thy distinguisht fate, and, clust'ring there  
Thick as the locust on the land of *Nile*,  
Made death more deadly, and more dark the grave.  
Reflect (if not forgot my touching tale)  
How was each circumstance with aspices arm'd ?  
An aspic, each ; and all, an *hydra* woe.

And

D 2

What

## 52    Thè C O M P L A I N T .    Night 3.

What strong *Herculean* virtue cauld suffice?—  
 Or is it virtue to be conquer'd here?  
 This hoary cheek a train of tears bedews;  
 And each tear mourns its own distinct distress;  
 And each distress, distinctly mourn'd, demands  
 Of grief still more, as heighten'd by the whole.  
 A grief like *this* proprietors excludes:  
 Not friends alone such obsequies deplore;  
 They make mankind the mourner; carry sighs  
 Far as the fatal *Fame* can wing her way;  
 And turn the gayest thought of gayest age,  
 Down their right channel, thro' the vale of death.

The vale of death! that husht *Cimmerian* vale,  
 Where *darkness*, brooding o'er unfinisht fates,  
 With raven wing incumbent, waits the day  
 (Dread day!) that interdicts all future change!  
 That subterranean world, that land of ruin!  
 Fit walk, **LORENZO**, for proud human thought!  
*There* let my thought expatiate; and explore  
 Balsamic truths, and healing sentiments,  
 Of all most wanted, and most welcome, *here*.  
 For gay **LORENZO**'s sake, and for thy own,  
 My soul! “ The fruits of dying friends survey;  
 “ Expose the *vain* of life; weigh life and death;  
 “ Give death his eulogy; thy fear subdn'd;  
 “ And labour that first palm of noble minds,  
 “ A manly scorn of terror from the tomb.”

This harvest reap from thy **NARCISSA**'s grave,  
 As poets feign'd from **AJAX'** streaming blood

*Agoſe,*

Arose, with grief inscrib'd, a mournful flow'r ;  
Let wisdom blossom from my mortal wound.  
And first, of dying friends ; what fruit from these ?  
It brings us more than triple aid ; an aid  
To chase our thoughtlessness, fear, pride, and guilt.

Our dying friends come o'er us like a cloud,  
To damp our brainless ardors ; and abate  
That glire of life, which often blinds the wise.  
Our dying friends are pioneers, to smooth  
Our rugged pass to death ; to break those bars  
Of terror, and abhorrence, nature throws  
Cross our obstructed way ; and, thus, to make  
Welcome, as safe, our port from ev'ry storm.  
Each friend by fate snatch'd from us, is a plume  
Pluckt from the wing of human vanity,  
Which makes us stoop from our aëreal heights,  
And, damp't with omen of our own decease,  
On drooping pinions of ambition lower'd,  
Just skim earth's surface, ere we break it up,  
O'er putrid earth to scratch a little daſt,  
And save the world a nuisance. Smitten friends  
Are angels sent on errands full of love ;  
For us they languish, and for us they die :  
And shall they languish, shall they die, in vain ?  
Ungrateful, shall we grieve their hov'ring shades,  
Which wait the revolution in our hearts ?  
Shall we disdain their silent, soft address ;  
Their posthumous advice, and pious prayer ?  
Senseless, as herds that graze their hallow'd graves,

## 54      The COMPLAINT. Night 3.

Tread under-foot their agonies and groans ;  
Frustate their anguish, and destroy their deaths ?

LORENZO ! no ; the thought of death indulge ;  
Give it its wholesome empire ; let it reign,  
That kind chastiser of thy soul in joy !  
Its reign will spread thy glorious conquests far,  
And still the tumults of thy ruffled breast :  
Auspicious æra ! golden days, begin !  
The thought of death, shall, like a god, inspire.  
And why not think on death ? Is life the theme  
Of ev'ry thought ? and wish of ev'ry hour ?  
And song of ev'ry joy ? Surprising truth !  
The beaten spaniel's fondness not so strange.  
To wave the num'rous *ills* that seize on life  
As their own property, their lawful prey ;  
Ere man has measur'd half his weary stage,  
His luxuries have left him no reserve,  
No maiden relishes, unbroach'd delights ;  
On cold-serv'd repetitions he subsists,  
And in the tasteless *present* chews the *past* ;  
Disgusted chews, and scarce can swallow down.  
Like lavish ancestors, his earlier years  
Have disinherited his future hours,  
Which starve on orts, and glean their former field.

Live ever here, LORENZO !—Shocking thought !  
So shocking, they who wish, disown it too ;  
Disown from shame, what they from folly crave.  
Live ever in the womb, nor see the light ?  
For what live ever here ?—With labouring step

T.

To tread our former footsteps ? Pace the round  
Eternal ? To climb life's worn, heavy wheel,  
Which draws up nothing new ? To beat, and beat,  
The beaten track ? To bid each wretched day  
The former mock ? To surfeit on the *same*,  
And yawn our joys ? or thank a misery  
For change, tho' sad ? To see what we have seen ?  
Hear, till unheard, the same old slabber'd tale ?  
To taste the tasted, and at each return  
Less tasteful ? O'er our palates to decant  
Another vintage ? strain a flatter year,  
Thro' loaded vessels, and a laxer tone ?  
Crazy machines to grind earth's wasted fruits !  
Ill-ground, and worse concocted ! Load, not life !  
The *rational* foul kennels of excess !  
Still-streaming thorough-fares of dull debauch !  
Trembling each gulp, lest death should snatch the  
bowl.

Such of our fine ones is the wish refin'd !  
So would they have it : elegant desire !  
Why not invite the bellowing stalls, and wilds ?  
But such examples might their riot awe.  
Through want of virtue, that is, want of thought,  
(Tho' on bright thought they father all their flights)  
To what are they reduc'd ! To love, and hate,  
The same vain world ; to censure, and espouse,  
This painted shrew of life, who calls them fool  
Each moment of each day ; to flatter bad  
Thro' dread of worse ; to cling to this rude rock,

56 The COMPLAINT. Night 3.

Barren, *to them*, of good, and sharp with ills,  
And hourly blacken'd with impending storms,  
And infamous for wrecks of human hope —  
Scar'd at the gloomy gulph, that yawns beneath.  
Such are their triumphs! such their pangs of joy!

'Tis time, high time, to shift this dismal scene.  
This hugg'd, this hideous state, what art can cure?  
One only; but that one, what all may reach;  
**VIRTUE**—She, wonder-working goddess! charms  
That rock to bloom; and tames the *painted shrew*;  
And what will more surprise, **LORENZO**! gives  
To life's sick, nauseous *iteration*, change;  
And straitens nature's circle to a line.  
Believ'it thou this, **LORENZO**? Lend an ear,  
A patient ear, thou'l blush to disbelieve.

A languid, leaden iteration reigns,  
And ever must, o'er those, whose joys are joys  
Of sight, smell, taste: the cuckow-seasons sing  
The same dull note to such as nothing prize,  
But what those seasons, from the teeming earth,  
To doating *sense* indulge. But nobler minds,  
Which relish fruits unripen'd by the *sun*,  
Make their days various; various as the dyes  
On the dove's neck, which wanton in *his* rays.  
On minds of dove-like innocence possest,  
On lighten'd minds, that bask in virtue's beams,  
Nothing hangs tedious, nothing old revolves  
In *that*, for which they long; for which they live.  
Their glorious efforts, wing'd with heav'nly hope,

Each

Each rising morning sees still higher rise ;  
Each bounteous dawn its novelty presents  
To worth maturing, new strength, lustre, fame ;  
While nature's circle, like a chariot-wheel  
Rolling beneath their elevated aims,  
Makes their fair prospect fairer ev'ry hour ;  
Advancing *virtue*, in a line to *bliss* ;  
*Virtue*, which Christian motives best inspire !  
And *bliss*, which Christian schemes alone ensure !

And shall we then, for *virtue*'s sake, commence  
Apostates ? and turn infidels for joy ?  
A truth it is few doubt, but fewer trust,  
“ He sins against *this life*, who slightst the *next*. ”  
What is *this life* ? How few their fav'rite know !  
Fond in the dark, and blind in our embrace,  
By passionately loving *life*, we make  
*Lov'd life* unlovely ; hugging her to death.  
We give to Time Eternity's regard ;  
And, dreaming, take our passage for our port.  
Life has no value as an end, but means ;  
An end deplorable ! a means divine !  
When 'tis our all, 'tis nothing ; worse than nought ;  
A nest of pains ; when held as nothing, much.  
Like some fair hum'rists, *life* is most enjoy'd,  
When courted least ; most worth, when dis-  
esteem'd ;  
Then 'tis the seat of comfort, rich in peace ;  
In prospect, richer far ; important ! awful !  
Not to be mention'd, but with shouts of praise !

58      The C O M P L A I N T .      Night 3.

Not to be thought on, but with tides of joy !  
The mighty basis of eternal bliss !

Where now the barren rock ? the painted shrew ?  
Where now, LORENZO ! life's eternal round ?  
Have I not made my triple promise good ?  
Vain is the world ; but only to the vain.  
To what compare we then this varying scene,  
Whose worth ambiguous rises, and declines ;  
Waxes, and wanes ? (In all propitious, Night  
Assists me here) Compare it to the moon ;  
Dark in herself, and indigent ; but rich  
In borrow'd lustre from a higher sphere :  
When gross guilt interposes, lab'ring earth,  
O'ershadow'd, mourns a deep eclipse of joy ;  
Her joys, at brightest, pallid, to that font  
Of full effulgent glory, whence they flow.

Nor is that glory distant : Oh LORENZO !  
A good man, and an angel ! These between  
How thin the barrier ! What divides their fate ?  
Perhaps a moment ; or perhaps a year ;  
Or, if an age, it is a moment still ;  
A moment, or eternity's forgot.

Then be, what once they were, who now are gods ;  
Be what PHILANDER was, and claim the skies,  
Starts timid nature at the gloomy pass ?  
The soft transition call it ; and be clear'd :  
Such it is often, and why not to thee ?  
To hope the best is pious, brave, and wise ;  
And may itself procure, what it presumes.

Life

Life is much flatter'd, death is much traduc'd ;  
 Compare the rivals, and the kinder crown.  
 "Strange competition!"—True, LORENZO! Strange!  
 So little *life* can cast into the scale.

*Life* makes the soul dependent on the dust ;  
*Death* gives her wings to mount above the spheres.  
 Thro' chinks, styl'd organs, dim *life* peeps at light ;  
*Death* bursts th' involving cloud, and all is day ;  
 All eye, all ear, the disembody'd pow'r.  
*Death* has feign'd evils, nature shall not feel ;  
*Life*, ills substantial, wisdom cannot shun.  
 Is not the mighty *mind*, that son of heaven !  
 By tyrant *life* dethron'd, imprison'd, pain'd ?  
 By *death* inlarg'd, ennobled, deify'd ?  
*Death* but intombs the body; *life* the soul.

" Is *death* then guiltless? How he marks his way  
 " With dreadful waste of what deserves to shine !  
 " Art, genius, fortune, elevated power !  
 " With various lustres *these* light up the world,  
 " Which *death* puts out, and darkens human race."  
 I grant, LORENZO! this indictment just :  
 The sage, peer, potentate, king, conqueror,  
*Death* humbles *these*; more barb'rous *life*, the *man*.  
*Life* is the triumph of our mould'ring clay ;  
*Death*, of the spirit infinite ! divine !  
*Death* has no dread, but what frail *life* imparts ;  
 Nor *life* true joy, but what kind *death* improves.  
 No bliss has *life* to boast, till *death* can give

60      The COMPLAINT.   Night 3.

Far greater: *life's* a debtor to the grave,  
Dark lattice! letting in eternal day.

LORENZO! blush at *fondness* for a *life*,  
Which sends celestial souls on errands vile,  
To cater for the sense; and serve at boards,  
Where ev'ry ranger of the wilds, perhaps  
Each reptile, justly claims our upper hand.  
Luxurious feast! a soul, a soul immortal,  
In all the dainties of a brute bemir'd!  
LORENZO! blush at *terror* for a *death*,  
Which gives thee to repose in festive bow'r's,  
Where nectars sparkle, angels minister,  
And more than angels share, and raise, and crown,  
And eternize, the birth, bloom, bursts of bliss.  
What need I more? O death, the palm is thine.

Then welcome, death! thy dreaded harbingers,  
*Age*, and *disease*; *disease*, tho' long my guest;  
That plucks my nerves, those tender strings of life;  
Which, pluckt a little more, will toll the bell,  
That calls my few friends to my funeral;  
Where feeble nature drops, perhaps, a tear,  
While reason and religion, better taught,  
Congratulate the dead, and crown his tomb  
With wreath triumphant. Death is victory;  
It binds in chains the raging ills of life:  
*Lust* and *ambition*, *wrath*, and *avarice*,  
Dragg'd at his chariot-wheel, applaud his power.  
That ills corrosive, cares importunate,

Are

Are not immortal too, O death! is thine.  
Our day of dissolution!—Name it right;  
'Tis our great pay-day; 'tis our harvest, rich  
And ripe: what tho' the sickle, sometimes keen,  
Just scars us, as we reap the golden grain?  
More than thy balm, O Gilead! heals the wound.  
*Birth's* feeble cry, and *death's* deep dismal groan,  
Are slender tributes low-tax'd nature pays  
For mighty gain: the gain of each, a life!  
But O! the last the former so transcends,  
*Life* dies, compar'd; *life* lives beyond the grave.

And feel I, *death!* no joy from thought of thee?  
*Death*, the great counsellor, who man inspires  
With ev'ry nobler thought, and fairer deed!  
*Death*, the deliverer, who rescues man!  
*Death*, the rewarder, who the rescu'd crowns!  
*Death*, that absolves my birth; a curse without it!  
*Rich death*, that realizes all my cares,  
Toils, virtues, hopes; without it a chimera!  
*Death*, of all pain the period, not of joy;  
*Joy's source*, and *subject*, still subsist unhurt;  
*One*, in my soul; and one, in her great Sire;  
Tho' the four winds were warring for my dust.  
*Yes*, and from winds, and waves, and central night,  
Tho' prison'd there, my dust too I reclaim,  
(To dust when drop proud nature's proudest  
spheres)  
*And live entire*. Death is the crown of life:  
Were

62      The COMPLAINT.   Night 3.

Were death deny'd, poor man would live in vain ;  
Were death deny'd, to live would not be life ;  
Were death deny'd, ev'n fools would wish to die.  
Death wounds to cure : we fall ; we rise ; we  
reign !

Spring from our fetters ; fasten in the skies ;  
Where blooming *Eden* withers in our sight :  
Death gives us more than was in *Eden* lost.  
This king of terrors is the prince of peace.  
When shall I die to vanity, pain, death ?  
When shall I die ?—When shall I live for ever ?



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NIGHT the F O U R T H.

T H E  
C H R I S T I A N T R I U M P H.  
C O N T A I N I N G  
Our only C U R E for the F E A R of  
D E A T H;

And Proper S E N T I M E N T S of H E A R T  
on that Inestimable Blessing.

Humbly Inscribed to the  
Hon<sup>ble</sup> Mr. Y O R K E.

---

A Much-indebted muse, O YORKE! intrudes.  
Amid the smiles of fortune, and of youth,  
Thine ear is patient of a serious song.  
How deep implanted in the breast of man  
The dread of death! I sing its sov'reign cure.  
Why start at death? Where is he? Death arriv'd,  
Is past; not come, or gone, he's never *here*.  
Ere *hope*, *sensation* fails; black-boding man  
Receives, not suffers, death's tremendous blow.

The

64      The COMPLAINT.   Night 4.

The knell, the shroud, the mattock, and the grave;  
The deep damp vault, the darkness, and the worm;  
These are the bugbears of a winter's eve,  
The terrors of the living, not the dead.

*Imagination's* fool, and *error's* wretch,  
Man makes a death, which nature never made;  
Then on the point of his own fancy falls;  
And feels a thousand deaths, in fearing one.

But were death frightful, what has *age* to fear?  
If prudent, age should meet the friendly foe,  
And shelter in his hospitable gloom.  
I scarce can meet a monument, but holds  
My younger; ev'ry date cries—"Come away."  
And what recalls me? Look the world around,  
And tell me what: The wisest cannot tell.  
Should any born of woman give his thought  
Full range, on just *dislike's* unbounded field;  
Of things, the vanity; of men, the flaws;  
Flaws in the *best*; the many, flaw all o'er;  
*As Leopards*, spotted, or, as *Ethiops*, dark;  
Vivacious ill; good dying immature;  
(How immature, *NARCISSA's* marble tells)  
And at its death bequeathing endless pain;  
His heart, tho' bold, would sicken at the sight,  
And spend itself in sighs for future scenes.

But grant to life (and just it is to grant  
To lucky life) some perquisites of joy;  
A time there is, when, like a thrice-told tale,

Long-

Long-rifled life of sweet can yield no more,  
But from our comment on the comedy,  
Pleasing reflections on parts well-sustain'd,  
Or purpos'd emendations where we fail'd,  
Or hopes of plaudits from our candid judge,  
When, on their exit, souls are bid unrobe,  
Toss Fortune back her tinsel, and her plume,  
And drop this mask of flesh behind the scene.

With me, that time is come; my world is dead;  
A new world rises, and new manners reign:  
Foreign comedians, a spruce band! arrive,  
To push me from the scene, or hiss me there.  
What a pert race starts up! the strangers gaze,  
And I at them; my neighbour is unknown;  
Nor that the worst: ah me! the dire effect  
Of loit'ring here, of death defrauded long;  
Of old so gracious (and let that suffice),  
My very master knows me not.—

Shall I dare say, Peculiar is the fate?  
I've been so long remember'd, I'm forgot.  
An object ever pressing dims the sight,  
And hides behind its ardor to be seen.  
When in his courtiers ears I pour my plaint,  
They drink it as the nectar of the great; [row;  
And squeeze my hand, and beg me come to-mor.  
*Refusal!* canst thou wear a smoother form?

Indulge me, nor conceive I drop my theme:  
Who cheapens life, abates the *fear of death*:  
Twice-told the period spent on stubborn *Troy*,

Court-

66      The C O M P L A I N T .      Night 4.

Court-favour, yet untaken, I besiege ;  
Ambition's ill-judg'd effort to be rich.  
Alas ! ambition makes my little, less ;  
Embitt'ring the posses'd : Why wish for more ?  
*Wishing*, of all employments, is the worst ;  
Philosophy's reverse ! and health's decay !  
Were I as plump, as stall'd theology,  
*Wishing* would waste me to this shade again.  
Were I as wealthy as a *South-sea* dream,  
*Wishing* is an expedient to be poor.  
*Wishing*, that constant *beetic* of a fool ;  
Caught at a court ; purg'd off by purer air,  
And simpler diet ; gifts of rural life !

Blest be that hand divine, which gently laid  
My heart at rest, beneath this humble shed.  
The world's a stately bark, on dang'rous seas,  
With pleasure seen, but boarded at our peril :  
*Here*, on a single plank, thrown safe ashore,  
I hear the tumult of the distant throng ;  
As that of seas remote, or dying storms ;  
And meditate on scenes, more silent still ;  
Pursue my theme, and fight the *fear of death*.  
*Here*, like a shepherd gazing from his hut,  
Touching his reed, or leaning on his staff,  
Eager ambition's fiery chace I see ;  
I see the circling hunt, of noisy men,  
Burst law's inclosure, leap the mounds of right,  
Pursuing, and pursu'd, each other's prey ;

As

As wolves, for rapine ; as the fox, for wiles ;  
Till death, that mighty hunter, earths them all.

Why all this toil for triumphs of an hour ?  
What, tho' we wade in wealth, or soar in fame ?  
Earth's highest station ends in, "Here he lies :"  
And "Dust to dust" concludes her noblest song.

If this song lives, posterity shall know  
One, tho' in *Britain* born, with courtiers bred,  
Who thought e'en gold might come a day too late ;  
Nor on his subtle death-bed plann'd his scheme  
For future vacancies in church or state ;  
Some avocation deeming it—to die ;  
Unbit by rage canine of dying rich ;  
Guilt's blunder ! and the loudest laugh of hell.

O my coëvals ! remnants of yourselves !  
Poor human ruins, tott'ring o'er the grave !  
Shall we, shall aged men, like aged trees,  
Strike deeper their vile root, and closer cling,  
Still more enamour'd of this wretched soil ?  
Shall our pale, wither'd hands be still stretch'd out,  
Trembling, at once, with eagerness and age ?  
With ay'rice, and convulsions, grasping hard ?  
Grasping at air ! for what has earth beside ?  
Man wants but little ; nor that little, long :  
How soon must he resign his very dust,  
Which frugal nature lent him for an hour !  
Years unexperienc'd rush on num'rous ills ;  
And soon as man, expert from time, has found  
The key of life, it opes the gates of death.

When

When in this vale of years I backward look,  
And miss such numbers, numbers too of such,  
Firmer in health, and greener in their age,  
And stricter on their guard, and fitter far  
To play life's subtle game, I scarce believe  
I still survive : And am I fond of life,  
Who scarce can think it possible, I live?  
Alive by miracle ! or, what is next,  
Alive by MEAD ! If I am still alive,  
Who long have bury'd what gives life to live,  
Firmness of nerve, and energy of thought.  
Life's lee is not more shallow, than impure,  
And wafid; sense and reason shew the door,  
Call for my bier, and point me to the dust.

O thou great arbiter of life and death !  
Nature's immortal, immaterial sun !  
Whose all-prolific beam late call'd me forth  
From darkness, teeming darkness, where I lay  
The worm's inferior, and, in rank, beneath  
The dust I tread on, high to bear my brow ;  
To drink the spirit of the golden day ;  
And triumph in existence ; and couldst know  
No motive, but my bliss ; and hast ordain'd  
A rise in blessing ; with the patriarch's joy,  
Thy call I follow to the land unknown ;  
I trust in Thee, and know in whom I trust ;  
Or life, or death, is equal ; neither weighs :  
All weight in this—O let me live to Thee !

Tho' nature's terrors, *tbus*, may be represt ;  
Still frowns grim *death* ; guilt points the tyrant's  
spear.

And whence all human guilt ? From death forgot.  
Ah me ! too long I set at nought the swarm  
Of friendly warnings, which around me flew ;  
And smil'd, unsmitten : small my cause to smile !  
*Death's* admonitions, like shafts upwards shot.  
More dreadful by delay ; the longer ere  
They strike our hearts, the deeper is their wound.  
O think how deep, LORENZO ! *Here* it stings :  
Who can appease its anguish ? How it burns !  
What hand the barb'd, invenom'd, thought can  
draw ?

What healing hand can pour the balm of peace ?  
And turn my fight undaunted on the tomb ?  
With joy,—with grief, that *healing hand* I see ;  
Ah ! too conspicuous ! It is fix'd on high.  
On high !—What means my phrensy ? I blaspheme ;  
Alas ! how low ! how far beneath the skies !  
The skies it form'd ; and now it bleeds for me—  
But bleeds the balm I want—yet still it *bleeds*.  
Draw the dire steel—Ah no !—The dreadful blessing  
What heart or can sustain, or dares forego ?  
There hangs all human hope : that nail supports  
The falling universe : that gone, we drop ;  
Horror receives us, and the dismal wish  
Creation had been smother'd in her birth—  
Darkness his curtain, and his bed the dust ;

When

## 70      The COMPLAINT.   Night 4.

When stars and sun are dust beneath his throne !  
In heav'n itself can such indulgence dwell ?  
O what a groan was there ! A groan *not His.*  
He seiz'd our dreadful right ; the load sustain'd ;  
And heav'd the mountain from a guilty world.  
A thousand worlds, *so* bought, were bought too  
Sensations *new* in angels bosoms rise ;        [dear.  
Suspend their song ; and make a pause in bliss.

O for their song, to reach my lofty theme !  
Inspire me, *Night* ! with all thy tuneful spheres ;  
Whilst I with seraphs share seraphic themes,  
And shew to men the dignity of man ;  
Lest I blaspheme my subject with my song.  
Shall *Pagan* pages glow celestial flame,  
And *Christian* languish ? On our hearts, not heads,  
Falls the foul infamy : my heart ! awake.  
What can awake thee, unawak'd by *this*,  
“ Expended Deity on human weal ? ”  
Feel the *great truths*, which burst the tenfold night  
Of *heathen* error, with a golden flood  
Of endless day : To feel is to be fir'd ;  
And to believe, **LORENZO** ! is to feel.

Thou most indulgent, most tremendous Pow'r !  
Still more tremendous, for thy wond'rous love !  
That arms, with awe more awful, thy commands ;  
And foul transgression dips in sev'nfold guilt ;  
How our hearts tremble at thy love immense !  
In love immense, inviolably just !

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The Christian Triumph. 71

Thou, rather than thy *justice* should be stain'd,  
Didst stain the *cross*; and, work of wonders, far  
The greatest, that thy dearest far might bleed.  
Bold thought! Shall I dare speak it, or repress?  
Should man more *execrate*, or *boast*, the guilt  
Which rous'd such vengeance? which such love  
inflam'd?

O'er guilt (how mountainous!) with outstretcht  
arms,

Stern *justice*, and soft smiling *love*, embrace,  
Supporting, in full majesty, thy throne,  
When seem'd its majesty to need support,  
Or *that*, or *man*, inevitably lost.

What, but the fathomless of thought divine,  
Could labour such expedient from despair,  
And rescue both? Both rescue! Both exalt!  
O how are both exalted by the *deed*!

The wond'rous deed! or shall I call it more?  
A wonder in Omnipotence itself!  
A mystery no less to gods than men!

Not, *thus*, our infidels th' *Eternal* draw,  
A God all o'er, consummate, absolute,  
Full-orb'd, in his whole round of rays complete:  
They set at odds heav'n's jarring attributes;  
And, with one excellence another wound;  
Maim Heav'n's perfection, break its equal beams;  
Bid *mercy* triumph over—God himself,  
Undeify'd by their opprobrious praise:  
A god *all* mercy, is a god unjust.

Ye

Ye brainless wits ! ye baptiz'd infidels !  
 Ye worse for mending ! wash'd to fouler stains !  
 The ransom was paid down ; the fund of heaven,  
 Heav'n's inexhaustible, exhausted fund,  
 Amazing, and amaz'd, pour'd forth the price,  
 All price beyond : tho' curious to compute,  
 Archangels fail'd to cast the mighty sum :  
 Its value vast ungrasp'd by minds create,  
 For ever hides, and glows, in the Supreme.

And was the ransom paid ? It was : And paid  
 (What can exalt the bounty more ?) for You.  
 The sun beheld it—No ; the shocking scene  
 Drove back his chariot : *midnight* veil'd his face ;  
 Not such as *this* ; not such as nature makes ;  
 A *midnight*, nature shudder'd to behold ;  
 A *midnight* new ! a dread eclipse (without  
 Opposing spheres) from her Creator's frown !  
*Sun* ! didst thou fly thy Maker's pain ? or start  
 At that enormous load of human guilt, [cross ;  
 Which bow'd his blessed head ; o'erwhelm'd his  
 Made groan the centre ; burst earth's marble womb,  
 With pangs, strange pangs ! deliver'd of her dead ?  
 Hell howl'd ; and Heav'n that hour let fall a tear ;  
 Heav'n wept, that men might smile ! Heav'n bled,  
 Might never die ! — [that man

And is devotion virtue ? 'Tis *compell'd* : [these ?  
 What heart of stone, but glows at thoughts like  
 Such contemplations mount us ; and should mount  
 The mind still higher ; nor ever glance on man,

Unraptur'd, uninflam'd.—Where roll my thoughts  
To rest from wonders? Other wonders rise;  
And strike where-e'er they roll: my soul is caught:  
Heav'n's sov'reign blessings, clust'ring from the  
cross,

Rush on her, in a throng, and close her round,  
The pris'ner of amaze!—In His blest life,  
I see the path, and in His death, the price,  
And in His great ascent, the proof supreme  
Of Immortality.—And did He rise?

Hear, O ye nations! hear it, O ye dead!  
He rose! He rose! He burst the bars of death,

Lift up your heads, ye everlasting gates!  
And give the King of Glory to come in:  
Who is the King of Glory? He who left  
His throne of glory, for the pang of death:  
Lift up your heads, ye everlasting gates!  
And give the King of Glory to come in.

Who is the King of Glory? He who flew  
The rav'rous foe, that gorg'd all human race!  
The King of Glory, He, whose glory fill'd  
Heav'n with amazement at his love to man;  
And with divine complacency beheld  
Pow'r's most illumin'd, wilder'd in the theme.

The theme, the joy, how then shall man sustain?  
Oh the burst gates! crush'd sting! demolish'd  
throne!

[heav'n !

Last gasp! of vanquish'd death! Shout earth and  
This sum of good to man: whose nature, then,

Took wing, and mounted with him from the tomb!  
 Then, then, I rose; then first *humanity*  
 Triumphant, past the crystal ports of light,  
 (Stupendous guest!) and seiz'd eternal youth,  
 Seiz'd in *our* name. E'er since, 'tis blasphemous  
 To call man mortal. Man's mortality  
 Was, then, transferr'd to death; and heav'n's du-  
 Unalienably seal'd to this frail frame, [ration  
 This child of dust,—Man, all-immortal! hail;  
 Hail, Heav'n! all-lavish of strange gifts to man!  
 Thine all the glory; man's the boundless bliss.

Where am I rapt by this triumphant theme,  
 On Christian joy's exulting wing, above  
 Th' Aonian mount?—Alas, small cause for joy!  
 What if to pain immortal? If extent  
 Of being, to preclude a close of woe?  
 Where, then, my boast of immortality?  
 I boast it still, tho' cover'd o'er with guilt;  
 For guilt, not innocence, His life He pour'd;  
 'Tis guilt alone can justify His death;  
 Nor that, unlefs His death can justify  
 Relenting guilt in Heav'n's indulgent sight.  
 If, sick of folly, I relent; He writes  
 My name in heav'n, with that inverted spear  
 (A spear deep-dipt in blood!) which pierc'd His  
 And open'd there a font for all mankind [side,  
 Who strive, who combat crimes, to drink, and live:  
 This, only this, subdues the fear of death.

And

And what is *this*?—Survey the wond'rous cure:

And at each step, let higher wonder rise!

"Pardon for infinite offence! and pardon

"Thro' means, that speak its value infinite!

"A pardon bought with blood! with blood divine!

"With blood divine of Him, I made my foe!

"Persisted to provoke! tho' woo'd, and aw'd,

"Blest, and chaffis'd, a flagrant rebel still!

"A rebel, 'midst the thunders of his throne!

"Nor I alone! a rebel universe!

"My species up in arms! not one exempt!

"Yet for the foulest of the foul, He dies,

"Most joy'd, for the redeem'd from deepest guilt!

"As if our race were held of highest rank;

"And Godhead dearer, as more kind to man!"

Bound, ev'ry heart! and ev'ry bosom, burn!

Oh what a scale of miracles is here!

Its lowest round, high-planted on the skies;

Its tow'ring summit lost beyond the thought

'Of man or angel! Oh that I could climb

The wonderful ascent, with equal praise!

Praise! flow for ever, (if astonishment

Will give thee leave) my praise! for ever flow;

Praise ardent, cordial, constant, to high Heav'n

More fragant, than *Arabia* sacrific'd,

And all her spicy mountains in a flame.

So dear, so due to Heav'n, shall *praise* descend,

With her soft plume (from *playful* angels wing

First pluck'd by man) to tickle mortal ears,

## 76 The COMPLAINT. Night 4.

Thus diving in the pockets of the great?  
 Is *praise* the perquisite of ev'ry paw,  
 Tho' black as hell, that grapples well for gold?  
 Oh love of gold! thou meanest of amours!  
 Shall *praise* her odours waste on VIRTUE's dead,  
 Embalm the base, perfume the stench of guilt,  
 Earn dirty bread by washing *Ethiops* fair,  
 Removing filth, or sinking it from sight,  
 A scavenger in scenes, where *vacant* posts,  
 Like gibbets yet untenanted, expect  
 Their future ornaments? From courts and thrones,  
 Return, apostate *praise*! thou vagabond!  
 Thou prostitute! to thy first love return,  
 Thy first, thy greatest, once unrivall'd theme.

There flow redundant; like *Meander* flow,  
 Back to thy fountain; to that parent Pow'r,  
 Who gives the tongue to sound, the thought to soar,  
 The soul to be. Men homage pay to men,  
 Thoughtless beneath whose dreadful eye they bow  
 In mutual awe profound, of clay to clay,  
 Of guilt to guilt; and turn their backs on Thee,  
*Great Sire!* whom thrones celestial ceaseless sing;  
 To prostrate angels, an amazing scene!  
 O the presumption of man's awe for man!—  
 Man's Author! End! Restorer! Law! and Judge!  
 Thine, all; day thine, and thine this gloom of *night*,  
 With all her wealth, with all her radiant worlds:  
 What, night eternal, but a frown from Thee?  
 What, heav'n's meridian glory, but thy smile?

nt 4.      The Christian Triumph.      77

And shall not *praise* be Thine? not human praise?  
While heav'n's high host on *hallelujah's* live?

O may I breathe no longer, than I breathe  
My soul in praise to Him, who gave my soul,  
And all her infinite of prospect fair,  
Cut thro' the shades of hell, *great Love!* by Thee,  
O most adorable! most unador'd! [end]  
Where shall that praise begin, which ne'er should  
Where-e'er I turn, what claim on all applause!  
How is *night's* sable mantle labour'd o'er,  
How richly wrought with attributes divine!  
What *wisdom* shines! what *love!* This midnight  
pomp,

This gorgeous arch, with golden worlds inlay'd!  
Built with divine ambition! nought to Thee;  
For others this profusion: Thou, apart,  
Above! beyond! Oh tell me, mighty Mind!  
Where art Thou? Shall I dive into the *deep*?  
Call to the *sun*, or ask the roaring *winds*,  
For their Creator? Shall I question loud  
The *thunder*, if in that th' Almighty dwells?  
Or holds HE furious *storms* in streighten'd reins;  
And bids fierce *whirlwinds* wheel his rapid car?

What mean these questions?—Trembling I re-  
My prostrate soul adores the *present* God: [tract;  
Praise I a distant deity? He tunes [tains;  
My voice (if tun'd); the nerve, that writes, sus-  
Wrapt in his Being, I resound his praise:  
But tho' past all diffus'd, without a shore,

78      The COMPLAINT.   Night 4.

His essence ; *local* is His throne (as meet),  
To gather the disperst (as standards call  
The listed from afar) ; to fix a point,  
A central point, collective of his sons,  
Since finite ev'ry nature, but his own.

The nameless *He*, whose nod is *nature's* birth ;  
And *nature's* shield, the shadow of his hand ;  
Her dissolution, his suspended smile !  
The great *Firſt-Laſt* ! pavilion'd high he sits  
In darkness, from excessive splendor, born,  
By gods unseen, unless thro' lustre lost.  
His glory, to created glory, bright,  
As that to central horrors ; He looks down  
On all that soars ; and spans immensity.

Tho' *night* unnumber'd worlds unfolds to view,  
Boundless creation ! what art thou ? a beam,  
A mere effluvium of his majesty :  
And shall an atom of this atom-world  
Mutter, in dust and sin, the theme of heav'n ?  
Down to the centre should I send my thought  
Thro' beds of glitt'ring ore, and glowing gems,  
Their beggar'd blaze wants lustre for my lay ;  
Goes out in darkness : If, on tow'ring wing,  
I send it thro' the boundless vault of stars ;  
The stars, tho' rich, what dross their gold to *Thee*,  
Great ! good ! wise ! wonderful ! eternal King !  
If to those *conscious stars* thy throne around,  
Praise ever-pouring, and imbibing bliss ;  
And ask their strain ; they want it, *more* they want,

Poor

Poor their abundance, humble their sublime,  
Languid their energy, their ardor cold,  
Indebted still, their highest rapture burns :  
Short of its mark, defective, tho' divine. [alone;

Still more—This theme is man's, and man's  
Their vast appointments reach it not : they see  
On earth a bounty not indulg'd on high ;  
And *down-ward* look for Heav'n's superior praise !  
First-born of ether ! high in fields of light !  
View man, to see the glory of your God !  
Could angels envy, they had envy'd *here* ;  
And some *did* envy ; and the rest, tho' gods,  
Yet still gods *unredeem'd* (there triumphs man,  
Tempted to weigh the dust against the skies)  
They less would *feel*, tho' more adorn, my theme.  
They sung *Creation* (for in that they shar'd) ;  
How rose in melody, that child of love !  
*Creation's* great superior, man ! is thine ;  
Thine is *Redemption* ; they just gave the key ;  
'Tis thine to raise, and eternize, the song ;  
Tho' human, yet divine ; far should not *this*  
Raise man o'er man, and kindle seraphs *here* ?  
*Redemption* ! 'twas creation more sublime ;  
*Redemption* ! 'twas the labour of the skies ;  
Far more than labour—It was *death* in heav'n.  
A truth so strange ! 'twere bold to think it true ;  
If not far bolder still, to disbelieve. [heav'n ?  
Here pause, and ponder : Was there death in  
What then on earth ? On earth, which struck the  
blow ?

80      The C O M P L A I N T .      Night 4.

Who struck it ? Who !—O how is *man* inlarg'd,  
Seen thro' this medium ! How the pygmy tow'rs !  
How counterpois'd his origin from dust !  
How counterpois'd, to dust his sad return !  
How voided his vast distance from the skies !  
How near he presses on the seraph's wing !  
Which is the seraph ? Which the born of clay ?  
How this demonstrates, thro' the thickest cloud  
Of guilt, and clay condens'd, the son of heav'n !  
The *double* son ; the made, and the re-made !  
And shall heav'n's double property be lost ?  
Man's double madness only can destroy.  
To man the bleeding cross has promis'd *all* ;  
The bleeding cross has sworn eternal grace ;  
Who gave his life, what grace shall He deny ?  
O ye ! who, from this *Rock of Ages*, leap,  
Apostates, plunging headlong in the deep !  
What cordial joy, what consolation strong,  
Whatever winds arise, or billows roll,  
Our int'rest in the master of the storm !  
Cling *there*, and in wreck'd nature's ruins *smile* ;  
While vile apostates *tremble* in a calm.

Man ! know thyself. All wisdom centres there :  
To none man seems ignoble, but to man ;  
Angels that grandeur, men o'erlook, admire :  
How long shall human nature be *their* book,  
Deger'rate mortal ! and *unread* by thee ?  
The beam dim *reason* sheds shews wonders there ;  
What high contents ! illustrious faculties !

But

But the grand *comment*, which displays at full  
Our human height, scarce sever'd from divine,  
**By Heav'n compos'd**, was publish'd on the *cross*.

Who looks on that, and sees not in himself  
An awful stranger, a terrestrial god?  
A glorious partner with the Deity  
In that high attribute, immortal life?  
If a god bleeds, he bleeds not for a worm:  
I gaze, and, as I gaze, my mounting soul  
Catches strange fire, Eternity! at thee;  
And drops the world—or rather, more enjoys:  
How chang'd the face of nature! how improv'd!  
What seem'd a chaos, shines a glorious world,  
Or, what a world, an *Eden*; heighten'd all!  
It is another scene! another self!  
And still another, as time rolls along;  
And that a *self* far more illustrious still.  
Beyond long ages, yet roll'd up in shades  
Unpierc'd by bold conjecture's keenest ray,  
What evolutions of surprising fate!  
How nature opens, and receives my soul [gods  
In boundless walks of raptur'd thought! Where  
Encounter, and embrace me! What new births  
Of strange adventure, foreign to the sun,  
Where, what now charms, perhaps, whate'er exists,  
*Old Time*, and fair *Creation*, are forgot!

Is this extravagant? Of man we form  
Extravagant conception, to be just:  
Conception unconfin'd wants wings to reach him:

## 82      The C O M P L A I N T .      Night 4.

Beyond its reach, the Godhead only, more.  
*He*, the great Father! kindled at one flame  
The world of rationals ; one spirit pour'd  
From spirit's awful fountain ; pour'd Himself  
Thro' all their souls ; but not in equal stream,  
Profuse, or frugal, of th' inspiring God,  
As his wise plan demanded ; and when past  
Their various trials, in their various spheres,  
If they *continue* rational, as made,  
Resorbs them all into Himself again ;  
**H**is throne their centre, and his sinile their crown.

Why doubt we, then, the *glorious truth* to sing,  
Tho' yet *unsung*, as deem'd, perhaps, too bold ?  
Angels are men of a superior kind ;  
Angels are men in lighter habit clad,  
High o'er celestial mountains wing'd in flight ;  
And men are angels, loaded for an hour,  
Who wade this miry vale, and climb with pain,  
And slipp'ry step, the bottom of the steep.  
Angels their failings, mortals have their praise ;  
While *here*, of corps ethereal, such enroll'd,  
And summon'd to the *glorious standard* soon,  
Which flames eternal crimson thro' the skies.  
Nor are our *brothers* thoughtless of their kin,  
Yet absent ; but not absent from their love.  
**M**ICHAEL has fought our battles ; **R**AFAEL sung  
Our triumphs ; **GSent by the SOV'REIGN : And are these, O man !**

Thy

Thy friends, thy warm allies ? and thou (shame  
The cheek to cinder !) rival to the brute ? [burn  
Religion's all. Descending from the skies  
To wretched man, the goddess in her left  
Holds out *this* world, and, in her right, the *next* ;  
*Religion* ! the sole voucher man is man ;  
Supporter sole of man above himself ;  
Ev'n in this night of frailty, change, and death,  
She gives the soul a soul that acts a god.  
*Religion* ! Providence ! an After-state !  
*Here* is firm footing ; *here* is solid rock ;  
*This* can support us ; all is sea besides ;  
Sinks under us ; bestorms, and then devours.  
His hand the good man fastens on the skies,  
And bids earth roll, nor feels her idle whirl.

As when a wretch, from thick, polluted air,  
Darkness, and stench, and suffocating damps,  
And dungeon horrors, by kind fate, discharg'd,  
Climbs some fair eminence, where ether pure  
Surrounds him, and *Elysian* prospects rise,  
His heart exults, his spirits cast their load ;  
As if new-born, he triumphs in the change ;  
So joys the soul, when from inglorious aims,  
And sordid sweets, from feculence and froth.  
Of ties terrestrial, set at large, she mounts  
To reason's region, her own element,  
Breathes hopes immortal, and affects the skies.

*Religion* ! thou the soul of happiness ;  
And, groaning *Calvary*, of thee ! There shine

84      The COMPLAINT. Night 4.

The noblest truths ; *there* strongest motives fling :  
There, sacred violence assaults the soul ;  
There, nothing but *compulsion* is forborn.  
Can love allure us ? or can terror awe ?  
*He* weeps !—the falling drop puts out the sun ;  
*He* sighs !—the sigh earth's deep foundation shakes.  
*If*, in his love, so terrible, what then  
*His* wrath inflam'd ? his tenderness on fire ?  
Like soft, smooth oil, cutblazing other fires ?  
Can pray'r, can praise avert it ?—Thou, my *all* !  
My theme ! my inspiration ! and my crown !  
My strength in age ! my rise in low estate !  
My soul's ambition, pleasure, wealth !—my world !  
My light in darkness ! and my life in death !  
My boast thro' time ! bliss thro' eternity !  
Eternity, too short to speak thy praise !  
Or fathom thy profound of love to man !  
To man of men the meanest, ev'n to me ;  
My sacrifice ! my God !—what things are these !

What then art Thou ? by what name shall I call  
Knew I the name devout archangels use, [Thee ?  
Devout archangels should the name enjoy,  
By me unrivall'd ; thousands more sublime,  
None half so dear, as that, which, tho' unspoke,  
Still glows at heart : O how Omnipotence  
**Is lost in love !** Thou great *Philanthropist* !  
Father of angels ! but the friend of man !  
Like JACOB, fondest of the younger born !  
Thou, who didst save him, snatch the smoking  
brand

From

From out the flaines, and quench it in thy blood !  
How art thou pleas'd, by bounty to distress !  
To make us groan beneath our gratitude,  
Too big for birth ! to favour, and confound ;  
To challenge, and to distance, all return !  
Of lavish love stupendous heights to soar,  
And leave praise panting in the distant vale !  
Thy right too great defrauds Thee of thy due ;  
And sacrilegious our sublimest song.  
But since the naked *will* obtains thy smile,  
Beneath this monument of praise *unpaid*,  
And future life symphonious to my strain,  
(That noblest hymn to Heav'n !) for ever lie  
Intomb'd my fear of death ! and ev'ry fear,  
The dread of ev'ry evil, but thy frown.

Whom see I yonder, so demurely smile ?  
Laughter a labour, and might break their rest.  
Ye Quietists, in homage to the skies !  
Serene ! of soft address ! who mildly make  
An unobtrusive tender of your hearts,  
Abhorring violence ! who *halt* indeed ;  
But, for the blessing, *wrestle* not with Heav'n !  
Think you my song too turbulent ? too warm ?  
Are *passions*, then, the pagans of the soul ?  
*Reason* alone baptiz'd ? alone *ordain'd*  
To touch things sacred ? Oh for warmer still !  
Guilt chills my zeal, and age benumbs my powers ;  
Oh for an humbler heart, and prouder song !  
Thou, my much-injur'd theme ! with that soft eye,

Which

## 86 The COMPLAINT. Night 4.

Which melted o'er doom'd *Salem*, deign to look  
Compassion to the coldness of my breast;  
And pardon to the winter in my strain.

Oh ye cold-hearted, frozen, formalists !  
On such a theme, 'tis impious to be calm ;  
Passion is reason, transport temper, *here*.  
Shall Heav'n, which gave us ardor, and has shewn  
Her own for man so strongly, not disdain  
What smooth emollients in theology,  
Recumbent virtue's downy doctors preach,  
That prose of piety, a lukewarm praise ?  
Rise odours sweet from incense *uninflam'd* ?  
Devotion, when lukewarm, is undevout ;  
But when it glows, its heat is struck to heaven ;  
To human hearts her golden harps are strung ;  
High heav'n's *orchestra* chaunts *Amen* to man.

Hear I, or dream I hear, their distant strain,  
Sweet to the soul, and tasting strong of heaven,  
Soft-wafted on celestial *pity*'s plume,  
Thro' the vast spaces of the universe,  
To cheer me in this melancholy gloom ?  
Oh when will *death* (now stingless) like a friend,  
Admit me of their choir ? Oh when will *death*,  
This mould'ring, old, partition-wall throw down ?  
Give beings, one in nature, one abode ?  
Oh *death* divine ! that giv'st us to the skies !  
Great *future* ! glorious patron of the *past*,  
And *present* ! when shall I thy shrine adore ?  
From nature's *continent*, immensely wide,

Immensely

Immensely blest, this little *isle of life*,  
This dark, incarcerating *colony*,  
Divides us. Happy day! that breaks our chain;  
That manumits; that calls from exile home;  
That leads to nature's great *metropolis*,  
And re-admits us, thro' the *guardian hand*  
Of elder brothers, to our *Father's throne*;  
Who hears our advocate, and, thro' his wounds  
Beholding man, allows *that tender name*.

'Tis this makes *Christian triumph* a command:  
'Tis this makes joy a *duty* to the wife;  
'Tis impious, in a good man, to be sad. [hope?

Seest thou, LORENZO! where hangs all our  
Touch'd by the *cross*, we live; or, *more* than die;  
That *touch* which touch'd not angels; more divine  
Than that, which touch'd confusion into form,  
And darkness into glory; partial *touch*!  
Ineffably pre-eminent regard!

Sacred to man, and sov'reign thro' the whole  
Long golden chain of miracles, which hangs  
From heav'n thro' all duration, and supports  
In one illustrious, and amazing plan,  
Thy welfare, *nature*! and thy God's renown;  
*That touch*, with charms celestial, heals the soul  
Diseas'd, drives pain from guilt, lights life in death,  
Turns earth to heav'n, to heav'nly thrones trans-  
The ghastly ruins of the mould'ring tomb. [forms

Dost ask me when? when *He* who dy'd returns?  
Returns, how chang'd! Where then the man of  
woe? In

88      The COMPLAINT.   Night 4.

In glory's terrors all the Godhead burns ;  
And all his courts, exhausted by the tide  
Of deities triumphant in his train,  
Leave a stupendous solitude in heaven ;  
Replenish soon ; replenish with increase  
Of pomp, and multitude ; a radiant band  
Of angels new ; of angels from the tomb.

Is this by fancy thrown remote ? and rise  
Dark doubts between the promise, and event ?  
I send thee not to volumes for thy cure ;  
Read nature ; nature is a friend to truth ;  
Nature is *Christian* ; preaches to mankind ;  
And bids dead matter aid us in our creed.  
Hast thou ne'er seen the comet's flaming flight ?  
Th' illustrious stranger passing, terror sheds  
On gazing nations, from his fiery train,  
Of length enormous ; takes his ample round  
Thro' depths of Ether ; coasts unnumber'd worlds,  
Of more than solar glory ; doubles wide  
Heav'n's mighty cape ; and then revisits earth,  
From the long travel of a thousand years.  
Thus, at the destin'd period, shall return  
**HE**, once on earth, who bids the comet blaze :  
And, with him, *all* our triumph o'er the tomb.

*Nature* is dumb on this important point ;  
Or hope precarious in low whisper breathes ;  
*Faith* speaks aloud, distinct ; ev'n adders hear ;  
But turn, and dart into the dark again.  
*Faith* builds a bridge across the gulph of death,

To

To break the shock blind *nature* cannot shun,  
And lands thought smoothly on the farther shore.  
Death's terror is the mountain *faith* removes ;  
That mountain barrier between man and peace.  
'Tis *faith* disarms destruction ; and absolves  
From ev'ry clam'rrous charge the guiltless tomb.

Why disbelieve ? LORENZO !—“ *Reason* bids,  
“ All-sacred reason.”—Hold her sacred still ;  
Nor shalt thou want a rival in thy flame :  
All-sacred *Reason* ! source, and soul, of all  
Demanding praise, on earth, or earth above !  
My heart is thine : deep in its inmost folds,  
Live thou with Life ; live dearer of the two.  
Wear I the blessed cross, by fortune stampt  
On passive nature, before thought was born ?  
My birth's blind bigot ! fir'd with *local* zeal !  
No ; *reason* rebaptiz'd me when adult ;  
Weigh'd True and False in her impartial scale ;  
My heart became the convert of my head ;  
And made that choice, which once was but my  
“ On argument alone my faith is built :” [fate.  
*Reason* pursu'd is *faith* ; and, unpursu'd  
Where proof invites, 'tis *reason*, then, no more :  
And such our *proof*, That, or our *Faith* is *right*,  
Or *reason* lies, and Heav'n design'd it *wrong* :  
Absolve we this ? What, then, is blasphemy ?  
Fond as we are, and justly fond of *Faith*,  
*Reason*, we grant, demands our first regard ;

The

## 90      The C O M P L A I N T .      Night 4.

The mother honour'd, as the daughter dear.  
*Reason* the root, fair *faith* is but the flower ;  
The fading flower shall die ; but *reason* lives  
Immortal, as her Father in the skies.

When *faith* is virtue, *reason* makes it so.

Wrong not the Christian ; think not reason yours ;  
'Tis *reason* our great *Master* holds so dear ;  
'Tis *reason's* injur'd rights his wrath resents ;  
'Tis *reason's* voice obey'd his glories crown ;  
To give lost *reason* life, he pour'd his own :  
Believe, and shew the reason of a man ;  
Believe, and taste the pleasure of a god ;  
Believe, and look with triumph on the tomb :  
Thro' *reason's* wounds alone, thy *faith* can die ;  
Which dying, tenfold terror gives to death,  
And dips in *venom* his twice-mortal sting.

Learn hence what honours, what loud *pæans*, due  
To those, who push our *antidote* aside ;  
Those boasted friends to *reason*, and to *man*,  
Whose fatal love stabs ev'ry joy, and leaves  
Death's terror heighten'd, gnawing on his heart.  
These pompous sons of *reason* idoliz'd,  
And vilify'd at once ; of *reason* dead,  
Then deify'd, as monarchs were of old ;  
What conduct plants proud laurels on their brow ?  
While *love of truth* thro' all their camp resounds,  
They draw *pride's* curtain o'er the noon-tide ray ;  
Spike up their inch of *reason*, on the point

Of

Of philosophic wit, call'd argument ;  
 And then, exulting in their taper, cry,  
 " Behold the sun :" And, Indian-like, adore.

Talk they of *morals*? Oh thou bleeding love !  
 Thou maker of *new* morals to mankind !  
 The *grand* morality is love of Thee.  
 As wise as SOCRATES, if such they were,  
 (Nor will they bate of that sublime renown)  
*As wise as SOCRATES*, might justly stand  
 The definition of a modern fool.

A *Christian* is the highest stile of man.  
 And is there, who the blessed cross wipes off,  
 As a foul blot, from his dishonour'd brow ?  
 If angels tremble, 'tis at such a sight :  
 The wretch they quit, desponding of their charge,  
 More struck with grief or wonder, who can tell ?

Ye sold to sense ! ye citizens of earth !  
 (For such alone the Christian banner fly)  
 Know ye how wise your choice, how great your  
 gain ?

Behold the picture of earth's happiest man :  
 " He calls his wish, it comes ; he sends it back,  
 " And says, he call'd another ; that arrives,  
 " Meets the same welcome ; yet he still calls on ;  
 " Till one calls him, who varies not his call,  
 " But holds him fast, in chains of darkness bound,  
 " Till nature dies, and judgment sets him free ;  
 " A freedom, far less welcome than his chain."

But

## 92 The COMPLAINT. Night 4.

But  
Like  
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Just  
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An  
“ I

But grant man happy ; grant him happy long ;  
 Add to life's highest prize her latest hour ;  
 That hour, so late, is nimble in approach,  
 That, like a post, comes on in full career :  
 How swift the shuttle flies, that weaves thy shroud !  
 Where is the fable of thy former years ?  
 Thrown down the gulph of time ; as far from thee  
 As they had ne'er been thine ; the day in hand,  
 Like a bird struggling to get loose, is going ;  
 Scarce now posses'd, so suddenly 'tis gone ;  
 And each swift moment fled, is death advanc'd  
 By strides as swift : Eternity is all ;  
 And whose eternity ? Who triumphs there ?  
 Bathing for ever in the font of bliss !  
 For ever basking in the Deity !

**LORENZO ! who ?—Thy conscience shall reply.**

O give it leave to speak ; 'twill speak ere long,  
 Thy leave unaskt : **LORENZO ! hear it now,**  
 While useful its advice, its accent mild.  
 By the great edict, the divine decree,  
*Truth* is deposited with man's *last hour* ;  
 An honest hour, and faithful to her trust ;  
*Truth*, eldest daughter of the Deity ;  
*Truth*, of his council, when he made the worlds ;  
 Nor less, when he shall judge the worlds he made ;  
 Tho' silent long, and sleeping ne'er so sound,  
 Smother'd with errors, and oppress'd with toys,  
 That heav'n-commission'd hour no sooner calls,

But

But from her cavern in the soul's abyf,  
Like him they fable under *Ætna* whelm'd,  
The goddess bursts in thunder, and in flame :  
Loudly convinces, and severely pains.  
Dark *demons* I discharge, and *hydra*-stings ;  
The keen vibration of bright *Truth*—is hell :  
Just definition ! tho' by schools untaught.  
Ye deaf to truth ! peruse this parson'd page,  
And trust, for once, a prophet, and a priest ;  
“Men may *live* fools, but fools they cannot *die*.”



THE  
COMPLAINT.  
NIGHT the FIFTH.  
THE  
RELAPSE.  
Humbly Inscribed  
To the RIGHT HONOURABLE  
The Earl of LITCHFIELD.

L ORENZO! to recriminate is just.  
Fondness for fame is avarice of air.  
I grant the man is vain, who writes for praise.  
Praise no man e'er deserv'd, who sought no more.  
As just thy second charge. I grant the muse  
Has often blusht at her degen'rate sons,  
Retain'd by *sense* to plead her filthy cause;  
To raise the low, to magnify the mean,  
And subtilize the gross into refin'd:  
As if to magic numbers pow'rful charm  
'Twas giv'n, to make a *civet* of their song  
Obscene, and sweeten ordure to perfume.

Wit,

Wit, a true Pagan, deifies the brute,  
And lifts our swine-enjoyments from the mire.

The fact notorious, nor obscure the cause.

We wear the chains of *pleasure*, and of *pride* ;  
*These* share the man ; and *these* distract him too ;  
Draw diff'rent ways, and clash in their commands.  
*Pride*, like an eagle, builds among the stars ;  
But *pleasure*, lark-like, nests upon the ground.  
*Joys* shar'd by brute-creation, *pride* resents ;  
*Pleasure* embraces : man would *both* enjoy,  
And both *at once* : a point how hard to gain !  
But, what can't wit, when stung by strong desire ?

Wit dares attempt this arduous enterprize.

Since joys of *sense* can't rise to *reason's* taste ;  
In subtle *sophistry*'s laborious forge,  
Wit hammers out a *reason* new, that stoops  
To sordid scenes, and *meets* them with applause.  
Wit calls the *graces* the chaste zone to loose ;  
Nor less than a *plump* god to fill the bowl :  
A thousand phantoms, and a thousand spells,  
A thousand opiates scatters, to delude,  
To fascinate, inebriate, lay asleep,  
And the fool'd mind of man delightfully confound.  
Thus that which shock'd the *judgment*, shocks no  
more ;

That which gave *pride* offence, no more offends.  
*Pleasure* and *pride*, by nature mortal foes,  
At war eternal, which in man shall reign,  
By *wit's* address, patch up a fatal peace,

And

## 96 The COMPLAINT. Night 5

And hand in hand lead on the rank debauch,  
From rank, refin'd to delicate and gay.  
*Art*, cursed art ! wipes off th' indebted blush  
From nature's cheek, and bronzes ev'ry shame,  
Man smiles in ruin, glories in his guilt,  
And infamy stands candidate for praise.

All writ by man in favour of the soul,  
These *sensual Ethics* far, in bulk, transcend.  
The flow'rs of eloquence, profusely pour'd  
O'er spotted vice, fill half the letter'd world.  
Can pow'rs of genius exorcise their page,  
And consecrate enormities with song ?

But let not these inexpiable strains  
Condemn the muse that knows her dignity ;  
Nor meanly stops at *time*, but holds the world,  
As 'tis, in nature's ample field, a point,  
A point in her esteem ; from whence to start,  
And run the round of universal space,  
To visit Being universal there,  
And Being's Source, that utmost flight of mind !  
Yet, spite of this so vast circumference,  
Well knows, but what is *moral*, nought is *great*.  
Sing *sirens* only ? Do not angels sing ?  
There is in *poesy* a decent pride,  
Which well becomes her when she speaks to *prose*,  
Her younger sister ; haply, not more wise.

Think'it thou, LORENZO ! to find pastimes here ?  
No guilty passion blown into a flame,  
No foible flatter'd, dignity disgrac'd,

No

To fairy field of fiction, all on flower,  
 To rainbow colours, *here*, or filken tale;  
 But solemn counsels, images of awe,  
*Truths*, which eternity lets fall on man  
 With double weight, thro' these revolving spheres,  
 This death-deep silence, and incumbent shade:  
*Thoughts*, such as shall revisit your last hour;  
 Visit uncall'd, and live when life expires;  
 And thy dark pencil, *Midnight!* darker still  
 In melancholy dipt, embrowns the whole.

Yet this, e'en *this*, my laughter-loving friends!

**L**ORENZO! and thy brothers of the smile!  
If, what imports you most, can most engage,  
Shall steal your ear, and chain you to my song.

Or if you fail me, know, the wise shall taste  
The truths I sing; the truths I sing shall feel;  
And, feeling, give assent; and their assent  
Is ample recompence; is more than praise.

But chiefly thine, O LITCHFIELD! nor mistake;  
Think not un-introduc'd I force my way;

**N**ARCISSA, not unknown, not unally'd,  
By virtue, or by blood, illustrious youth!

To thee, from blooming amaranthine bowers,  
Where all the language *harmony*, descends  
Uncall'd, and asks admittance for the muse:  
A muse that will not pain thee with thy praise;  
Thy praise she drops, by nobler still inspir'd.

O Thou! blest Spirit! whether the Supreme,  
Great antemundane Father! in whose *breast*

Embryo-creation, unborn Being, dwelt,  
 And all its various revolutions roll'd  
 Present, tho' future; prior to themselves;  
 Whose breath can blow it into nought again;  
*Or*, from his throne some delegated pow'r,  
 Who, studious of our peace, dost turn the thought  
 From vain and vile, to solid and sublime!  
 Unseen thou lead'st me to delicious draughts  
 Of inspiration, from a purer stream,  
 And fuller of the God, than that which burst  
 From fam'd *Castalia*: Nor is yet allay'd  
 My sacred thirst; tho' long my soul has rang'd  
 Through pleasing paths of *moral* and *divine*,  
 By Thee sustain'd, and lighted by the *stars*.

By them best lighted are the paths of *thought*;  
*Nights* are their *days*, their most illumin'd hours.  
 By *day*, the soul, o'erborne by life's career,  
 Stunn'd by the din, and giddy with the glare,  
 Reels far from reason, jostled by the throng.  
 By *day* the soul is passive, all her thoughts  
 Impos'd, precarious, broken, ere mature.  
 By *night*, from objects free, from passion cool,  
 Thoughts uncontrol'd, and unimpress'd, the birth  
 Of pure election, arbitrary range,  
 Not to the limits of one world confin'd;  
 But from ethereal travels light on earth,  
 As voyagers drop anchor, for repose.

Let *Indians*, and the gay, like *Indians*, fond  
 Of feather'd fopperies, the sun adore:

*Darknes*

Darkness has more divinity for me ;  
It strikes thought inward ; it drives back the soul  
To settle on herself, our point supreme !

There lies our theatre ; there sits our judge.

Darkness the curtain drops o'er life's dull scene ;  
Tis the kind hand of Providence stretcht out  
Twixt man and vanity ; 'tis reason's reign,  
And virtue's too ; these tutelary shades  
Are man's *asylum* from the tainted throng.

Night is the good man's friend, and guardian too,  
It no leis rescues virtue, than inspires.

Virtue, for ever frail, as fair, below,  
Her tender nature suffers in the crowd,  
Nor touches on the world, without a stain :  
The world's infectious ; few bring back at eve,  
Immaculate, the manners of the morn.

Something we thought, is blotted ; we resolv'd,  
Is shaken ; we renounc'd, returns again.

Each salutation may slide in a sin  
Unthought before, or fix a former flaw.

Nor is it strange : light, motion, concourse, noise,  
All, scatter us abroad ; thought outward-bound,  
Neglectful of our home-affairs, flies off  
In fume and dissipation, quits her charge,  
And leaves the breast unguarded to the foe.

Present example gets within our guard,  
And acts with double force, by few repell'd.

Ambition fires ambition ; love of gain  
Strikes, like a pestilence, from breast to breast ;

Riot, pride, perfidy, blue vapours breathe ;  
 And inhumanity is caught from man,  
 From smiling man. A flight, a single glance,  
 And shot at random, often has brought home  
 A sudden fever, to the throbbing heart,  
 Of envy, rancour, or impure desire.  
 We see, we hear, with peril ; safety dwells  
 Remote from multitude ; the world's a school  
 Of wrong, and what proficients swarm around !  
 We must, or imitate, or disapprove ;  
 Must list as their accomplices, or foes ;  
 That stains our innocence ; this wounds our peace.  
 From nature's birth, hence, wisdom has been smit  
 With sweet recess, and languish'd for the shade.

This sacred shade, and solitude, what is it ?  
 'Tis the felt presence of the Deity.  
 Few are the faults we flatter when alone.  
*Vice* sinks in her allurements, is ungilt,  
 And looks, like other objects, black by night.  
 By night an atheist half-believes a God.

Night is fair virtue's immemorial friend ;  
 The conscious moon, through ev'ry distant age,  
 Has held a lamp to wisdom, and let fall  
 On contemplation's eye, her purging ray.  
 The fam'd Athenian, he who wo'd from heav'n  
*Philosophy* the fair, to dwell with men,  
 And form their manners, not inflame their pride,  
 While o'er his head, as fearful to molest  
 His lab'ring mind, the stars in silence slide,

And

ght 5.      The R E L A P S E.      191

And seem all gazing on their future guest,  
See him soliciting his ardent suit,  
In *private* audience: All the live long night,  
Rigid in thought, and motionless, he stands;  
Nor quits his theme, or posture, till the sun  
(Rude drunkard rising rosy from the main!)  
Disturbs his nobler intellectual beam,  
And gives him to the tumult of the world. [waste  
Hail, precious moments! stol'n from the black  
Of murder'd time! auspicious *Midnight!* hail!  
The world excluded, ev'ry passion hush'd,  
And open'd a calm intercourse with heav'n,  
Here the soul sits in council; ponders *past*,  
Predestines *future* action; sees, not feels,  
Tumultuous life; and reasons with the storm;  
All her lies answers, and *thinks* down her charms.  
What awful joy! what mental liberty!  
I am not pent in darkness; rather say  
(If not too bold) in darkness I'm imbower'd.  
Delightful gloom! the clust'ring thoughts around  
Spontaneous rise, and blossom in the shade;  
But droop by day, and sicken in the *sun*.  
*Thought* borrows light elsewhere: from that *Firſt*  
Fountain of animation! whence descends [fire,  
URANIA, my celestial guest! who deigns  
Nightly to visit me, so mean; and now  
Conscious how needful discipline to man,  
From pleasing dalliance with the charms of *night*

My wand'ring thought recalls, to what excites  
Far other beat of heart; NARCISSA's tomb!

Or is it feeble nature calls me back,  
And breaks my spirit into grief again?  
Is it a *Stygian* vapour in my blood?  
A cold, slow puddle, creeping thro' my veins?  
Or is it *thus* with all men?—Thus, with all.  
What are we? How unequal! Now we soar,  
And now we sink; to be *the same*, transcends  
Our present prowess. Dearly pays the *soul*  
For lodging ill; too dearly rents her clay.  
*Reason*, a baffled counsellor! but adds  
The blush of weakness, to the bane of woe.  
The noblest spirit fighting her hard fate,  
In this damp, dusky region, charg'd with storms  
But feebly flutters, yet untaught to fly;  
Or, flying, short her flight, and sure her fall.  
Our utmost strength, when down, to rise again;  
And not to *yield*, tho' beaten, all our praise.

'Tis vain to seek in men for more than man.  
Tho' proud in promise, big in previous thought,  
*Experience* damps our triumph. I, who late,  
Emerging from the shadows of the grave,  
Where *grief* detain'd me pris'ner, mounting high,  
Threw wide the gates of everlasting day,  
And call'd mankind to glory, shook off *pain*,  
*Mortality* shook off, in æther pure,  
And struck the stars; now feel my spirits fail;  
They drop me from the zenith; down I rush,

Like

Like him whom fable fledg'd with waxen wings,  
In sorrow drown'd—but not, in sorrow, lost.  
How wretched is the man, who never mourn'd !  
I dive for precious pearl, in sorrow's stream !  
Not so the thoughtless man that *only* grieves ;  
Takes all the torment, and rejects the gain  
(Inestimable gain !) ; and gives Heav'n leave  
To make him but more wretched, not more wise.

If wisdom is our lesson (and what else  
Ennobles man ? what else have angels learnt ?)  
*Grief* ! more proficients in thy school are made,  
Than *genius*, or proud *learning*, e'er could boast.  
Voracious *learning*, often over-fed,  
Digests not into sense her motley meal.  
This *book-cafe*, with dark booty almost burst,  
This *forager* on others wisdom, leaves  
Her native farm, her *reason*, quite untill'd.  
With mixt manure she surfeits the rank foil,  
Dung'd, but not dress'd ; and rich to beggary.  
A pomp untameable of weeds prevails.  
Her servant's wealth, incumber'd *wisdom* mourns.

And what says *genius* ? “ *Let the dull be wise.* ”  
*Genius*, too hard for right, can prove it wrong ;  
And loves to boast, where blushing men less inspir'd.  
It pleads exemption from the laws of *sense* ;  
Considers *reason* as a leveller ;  
And scorns to share a blessing with the crowd.  
That wise it could be, thinks an ample claim  
To *glory*, and to *pleasure* gives the rest.

CRASSUS but sleeps, ARDELIO is undone.  
*Wisdom* less shudders at a fool, than wit.

But *wisdom* smiles, when humbled mortals weep,  
 When *sorrow* wounds the breast, as ploughs the  
 glebe,

And hearts obdurate feel her soft'ning shower,  
 Her seed celestial, then, glad *wisdom* sows;  
 Her golden harvest triumphs in the soil.  
 If so, NARCISSA! welcome my *relapse*;  
 I'll raise a tax on my calamity,  
 And reap rich compensation from my pain.  
 I'll range the plenteous intellectual field;  
 And gather ev'ry thought of sov'reign power  
 To chase the moral maladies of man;  
 Thoughts, which may bear transplanting to the skies,  
 Tho' natives of this coarse penurious soil;  
 Nor wholly wither *there*, where *seraphs* sing,  
 Refin'd, exalted, not annull'd, in heaven.  
 Reason, the sun that gives them birth, the same  
 In either clime, tho' more illustrious *there*.  
 These choicely cull'd, and elegantly rang'd,  
 Shall form a garland for NARCISSA's tomb;  
 And, peradventure, of no fading flowers.

Say, on what themes shall puzzled choice de-  
 scend?

"Th' importance of contemplating the tomb;  
 "Why men decline it; *suicide's* foul birth;  
 "The various kinds of grief; the faults of age;  
 "And Death's dread character—invite my song."

And,

And, first, th' importance of our end survey'd.  
 Friends counsel quick dismission of our grief :  
 Mistaken kindness ! our hearts heal *too soon*.  
 Are they more kind than *He*, who struck the blow ?  
 Who bid it do his errand in our hearts,  
 And banish peace, till *nobler guests* arrive,  
 And bring it back a true and endless peace ?  
 Calamities are *friends* : As glaring day  
 Of these unnumber'd lustres robs our sight ;  
*Prosperity* puts out unnumber'd thoughts  
 Of import high, and light divine, to man.

The man how blest, who, sick of gaudy scenes,  
 (Scenes apt to thrust between us and ourselves !)  
 Is led by choice to take his fav'rite walk,  
 Beneath *death's gloomy, silent, cypress shades*,  
 Unpierc'd by vanity's fantastic ray ;  
 To read his monuments, to weigh his dust,  
 Visit his vaults, and dwell among the tombs !  
**LORENZO !** read with me **NARCISSA's stone** ;  
 (**NARCISSA** was thy fav'rite) let us read  
 Her *moral stone* ; few doctors preach so well ;  
 Few orators so tenderly can touch  
 The feeling heart. What *pathos* in the *date* !  
 Apt words can strike ; and yet in them we see  
 Faint images of what we, *here*, enjoy.  
 What cause have *we* to build on length of life ?  
 Temptations seize, when fear is laid asleep ;  
 And ill foreheded is our strongest guard.

See from her tomb, as from an humble shrine,

*Truth*, radiant goddess ! fallies on my soul,  
 And puts *delusion's* dusky train to flight ;  
 Dispels the mist our sultry *passions* raise,  
 From objects low, terrestrial, and obscene ;  
 And shew's the real estimate of things ;  
 Which no man, unafflicted, ever saw ;  
 Pulls off the veil from *virtue's* rising charms ;  
 Detects *temptation* in a thousand lies.

*Truth* bids me look on men, as *autumn leaves*,  
 And all they bleed for, as the summer's dust,  
 Driv'n by the whirlwind : lighted by her beams,  
 I widen my horizon, gain new powers,  
 See things invisible, feel things remote,  
 Am present with futurities ; think nought  
 To man so foreign, as the joys *posset* ;  
 Nought so much his, as those beyond the grave.

No *folly* keeps its colour in *her* sight ;  
 Pale *worldly wisdom* loses all her charms ;  
 In pompous promise from her schemes profound,  
 If future fate she plans, 'tis all in leaves,  
 Like *Sibyl*, unsubstantial, fleeting bliss !  
 At the first blast it vanishes in air.  
 Not so, *celestial* : Wouldst thou know, LORENZO !  
 How differ *worldly wisdom*, and *divine* ?  
 Just as the waning, and the waxing moon.  
 More empty *worldly wisdom* ev'ry day ;  
 And ev'ry day more fair her *rival* shines.  
 When *later*, there's less time to play the fool.  
 Soon our whole term for wisdom is expir'd

(Thou

ight 5.      The R E L A P S E.      107

(Thou know'st she calls no council in the grave):  
And everlasting fool is writ in fire,  
Or *real* wisdom wafts us to the skies.

As worldly schemes resemble *Sibyl's* leaves,  
The good man's days to *Sibyl's* books compare,  
(In antient story read, thou know'st the tale)  
In price still rising, as in number less,  
Inestimable quite his final hour.

For that who thrones can offer, offer thrones;  
Insolvent worlds the purchase cannot pay.

"Oh let me die his death!" all nature cries.

"Then live his life"—All nature falters there.  
Our great physician daily to consult,  
To commune with the *grave*, our only cure.

What grave prescribes the best?—A friend's;  
and yet,

From a friend's grave, how soon we disengage!  
Ev'n to the dearest, as his marble, cold.

Why are friends ravish'd from us? 'Tis to bind,  
By soft *affection's* tyes, on human hearts,  
The thoughts of death, which *reason*, too supine,  
Or misemploy'd, so rarely fathoms *there*.

Nor reason, nor affection, no, nor both  
Combin'd, can break the witchcrafts of the  
Behold th' inexorable hour at hand!      [world.  
Behold th' inexorable hour forgot!

And to forget it, the chief *aim* of life,  
Tho' well to ponder it, is life's chief *end*.  
Is death, that ever threat'ning, ne'er remote,

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That all-important, and that only sure,  
(Come when he will) an unexpected guest ?  
Nay, tho' invited by the loudest calls  
Of blind *imprudence*, unexpected still ?  
Tho' num'rous messengers are sent before,  
To warn his great arrival. What the cause,  
The wond'rous cause, of this mysterious ill ?  
All heav'n looks down astonish'd at the sight.

Is it that life has sown her joys so thick,  
We can't thrust in a single care between ?  
Is it, that life has such a swarm of *cares*,  
The thought of death can't enter for the throng ?  
Is it, that *time* steals on with downy feet,  
Nor wakes *indulgence* from her golden dream ?  
*To-day* is so like *yesterday*, it cheats ;  
We take the lying sister for the same.  
Life glides away, LORENZO ! like a brook ;  
For ever changing, unperceiv'd the change.  
In the same brook none ever bath'd him twice ;  
To the same life none ever twice awoke.  
We call the brook the same ; the same we think  
Our life, tho' still more rapid in its flow ;  
Nor mark the *much* irrevocably laps'd,  
And mingled with the sea. Or shall we say  
(Retaining still the brook to bear us on)  
That life is like a vessel on the stream ?  
*In life* embark'd, we smoothly down the tide  
Of *time* descend, but not on *time* intent ;  
*Awus'd*, unconscious of the gliding wave ;

Till

Till on a sudden we perceive a shock ;  
We start, awake, look out ; what see we there ?  
Our brittle bark is burst on *Charon's* shore.

Is this the cause *death* flies all human thought ?  
Or is it *judgment*, by the *will* struck blind,  
That domineering mistress of the soul !  
Like *him* so strong by *Dalilah* the fair ?  
Or is it *fear* turns startled *reason* back,  
From looking down a precipice so steep ?  
'Tis dreadful ; and the dread is wisely plac'd,  
By nature conscious of the make of man.  
A dreadful friend it is, a terror kind,  
A flaming sword to guard the tree of life.  
By that unaw'd, in life's most smiling hour,  
*The good man* would repine ; would suffer joys,  
And burn impatient for his promis'd skies.  
The *bad*, on each punctilio pique of pride,  
Or gloom of humour, would give rage the rein,  
Bound o'er the barrier, rush into the dark,  
And mar the scenes of Providence below.

What groan was that, *LORENZO* ?—Furies, rise ;  
And drown, in your less execrable yell,  
*Britannia's* shame. There took her gloomy flight,  
On wing impetuous, a black sullen soul,  
Blasted from hell, with horrid lust of death.  
Thy friend, the brave, the gallant *Altamont*,  
So call'd, so thought—And then he fled the field.  
Less base the fear of death, than fear of life.  
O *Britain*, infamous for Suicide !

An

110 The COMPLAINT. Night 5.

An *island* in thy manners ! far disjoin'd  
From the whole world of *rational*s beside !  
In ambient waves plunge thy polluted head,  
Wash the dire stain, nor shock the continent.

But thou be shock'd, while I detect the cause  
Of *self-assault*, expose the monster's birth,  
And bid abhorrence hiss it round the world.  
Blame not thy clime, nor chide the distant sun ;  
The sun is innocent, thy clime absolv'd :  
*Immoral* climes kind nature never made.  
The cause I sing, in *Eden* might prevail,  
And proves, It is thy folly, not thy fate.

The soul of man (Let man in homage bow,  
Who names his *soul*), a native of the skies !  
High-born, and free, her freedom should maintain,  
Unfold, unmortgag'd for *earth*'s little bribes.  
Th' illustrious stranger, in this foreign land,  
Like strangers, jealous of her dignity,  
Studioius of home, and ardent to return,  
Of *earth* suspicious, *earth*'s enchanted cup  
With cool reserve light-touching, shoud indulge,  
On *immortality*, her godlike taste ; [there.  
*There* take large draughts ; make her chief banquet

But some reject this sustenance divine ;  
To beggarly vile appetites descend ; [heaven !  
Ask alms of *earth*, for guests that came from  
Sink into slaves, and sell, for present hire,  
Their rich reversion, and (what shares its fate)  
Their native *freedom*, to the prince who sways

This

## 5.      The R E L A P S E.    III

This nether world. And when his payments fail,  
When his foul basket gorges them no more ;  
Or their pall'd palates loath the basket full ;  
Are instantly, with wild demoniac rage,  
For breaking all the chains of Providence,  
And bursting their confinement ; tho' fast barr'd  
By laws divine and human ; guarded strong  
With *horrors* doubled to defend the pass,  
The blackest *nature*, or dire *guilt*, can raise ;  
And moated round, with fathomless *destruction*,  
Sure to receive, and whelm them in their fall.

Such, *Britons!* is the *cause*, to you unknown,  
Or, worse, o'erlook'd ; o'erlook'd by magistrates,  
*Thus* criminals themselves. I grant the deed  
Is madness ; but the madness of the *heart*.  
And what is that ? Our utmost bound of guilt.  
A sensual, unreflecting life, is big  
With monstrous births, and *Suicide*, to crown  
The black infernal brood. The bold to break  
Heav'n's law supreme, and desperately rush  
Thro' sacred *nature*'s murder, on their own,  
Because they never *think of death*, they die.  
'Tis equally man's duty, glory, gain,  
At once to shun, and meditate, his end.  
When by the bed of languishment we sit,  
(The seat of *wisdom* ! if our choice, not fate)  
Or, o'er our dying friends, in anguish hang,  
Wipe the cold dew, or stay the sinking head,  
Number their moments, and, in ev'ry clock,

Start

Start at the voice of an eternity ;  
 See the dim lamp of life just feebly lift  
 An agonizing beam, at us to gaze,  
 Then sink again, and quiver into death,  
 That most pathetic herald of our own ;  
 How read we such sad scenes ? As sent to man  
 In perfect vengeance ? No ; in pity sent,  
 To melt him down, like wax, and then impress,  
 Indelible, *death's* image on his heart ;  
 Bleeding for others, trembling for himself.  
 We bleed, we tremble, we forget, we smile.  
 The mind turns fool, before the cheek is dry.  
 Our quick-returning *folly* cancels all ;  
 As the tide rushing rases what is writ  
 In yielding sands, and smooths the letter'd shore.

LORENZO ! hast thou ever weigh'd a *sigh* ?  
 Or study'd the philosophy of *tears* ?  
 (A science, yet, unlectur'd in our schools !)  
 Hast thou descended deep into the breast,  
 And seen their source ? If not, descend with me,  
 And trace these briny riv'lets to their springs.

Our fun'r'al tears from diff'rent causes rise.  
 As if from separate cisterns in the soul,  
 Of various kinds, they flow. From tender hearts,  
 By soft contagion call'd, some burst at once,  
 And stream obsequious to the leading eye.  
*Some* ask more time, by curious art distill'd.  
*Some* hearts in secret hard, unapt to melt,  
 Struck by the magic of the public eye,

Like

Like MOSES' smitten rock, gush out amain.  
*Some* weep to share the fame of the deceas'd,  
 So high in merit, and to them so dear. [share;  
 They dwell on praises, which they think they  
 And thus, without a blush, commend Themselves.  
*Some* mourn, in proof that something they could  
 love;

They weep not to *relieve* their grief, but *shew*.  
*Some* weep in perfect justice to the dead,  
 As conscious all their love is in arrear.  
*Some* mischievously weep, not unappris'd,  
 Tears, sometimes, aid the conquest of an eye.  
 With what address the soft *Ephesians* draw  
 Their fable net-work o'er entangled hearts !  
 As seen thro' crystal, how their roses glow,  
 While *liquid pearl* runs trickling down their cheek !  
 Of hers not prouder *Egypt's* wanton queen,  
 Carousing gems, herself dissolv'd in love.  
*Some* weep at *death*, abstracted from the *dead*,  
 And celebrate, like CHARLES, their own decease.  
 By kind construction some are *deem'd* to weep,  
 Because a decent veil conceals their joy.

Some weep in earnest; and yet weep in vain;  
 As deep in indiscretion, as in woe.  
*Passion*, blind passion ! impotently pours  
 Tears, that deserve more tears; while *reason* sleeps;  
 Or gazes, like an idiot, unconcern'd;  
 Nor comprehends the meaning of the storm;  
 Knows not it speaks to *Her*, and her alone.

Irra-

*Irrational*s all sorrow are beneath,  
 That noble gift ! that privilege of man !  
 From sorrow's pang, the birth of endless joy.  
 But *these* are barren of that birth divine :  
 They weep impetuous, as the summer-storm,  
 And full as short ! The cruel grief soon tam'd,  
 They make a pastime of the stingless tale ;  
 Far as the deep-resounding knell, they spread  
 The dreadful news, and hardly feel it more.  
 No grain of *wisdom* pays them for their woe.

Ha'f-round the globe, the tears pump't up by  
 Are spent in wat'ring vanities of life ; [death  
 In making folly flourish still more fair.  
 When the sick soul, her wonted stay withdrawn,  
 Reclines on earth, and sorrows in the dust ;  
 Instead of learning, there, her true support,  
 Tho' there thrown down her true support to learn,  
 Without Heav'n's aid, impatient to be blest,  
 She crawls to the next shrub, or bramble vile,  
 Tho' from the stately cedar's arms she fell ;  
 With stale, forsworn embraces, clings anew,  
 The stranger weds, and blossoms, as before,  
 In all the fruitless fopperies of life :  
 Presents her *weed*, well-faney'd, at the b.lli,  
 And raffles for the death's-head on the ring.

*So* wept AURELIA, till the destin'd youth  
 Stept in, with his receipt for making smiles,  
 And blanching fables into bridal bloom.  
*So* wept LORENZO fair CLARISSA's fate ;

Who

Who gave that angel boy, on whom he doats ;  
 And dy'd to give him, orphan'd in his birth !  
 Not such, NARCISSA, my distress for thee.  
 I'll make an altar of thy sacred tomb  
 To sacrifice to wisdom—What wast thou ?  
 "Young, gay, and fortunate!" Each yields a theme.  
 I'll dwell on each, to shun thought more severe ;  
 (Heav'n knows I labour with severer still !)  
 I'll dwell on each, and quite exhaust thy death.  
 A soul without reflection, like a pile  
 Without inhabitant, to ruin runs.

And, first, thy youth. What says it to grey hairs ?  
 NARCISSA, I'm become *thy* pupil now—  
 Early, bright, transient, chaste, as morning daw,  
 She sparkled, was exhal'd, and went to heaven.  
 Time on this head has snow'd; yet still 'tis borne  
 Aloft; nor thinks but on *another's* grave.  
 Cover'd with shame I speak it, *age* severe  
 Old worn-out vice sets down for virtue fair.  
 With graceless gravity, chastising youth,  
 That youth chastis'd surpassing in a fault,  
 Father of all, forgetfulness of death :  
 As if, like objects pressing on the sight,  
 Death had advanc'd too near us to be seen :  
 Or, that life's loan *time* ripen'd into right ;  
 And men might plead prescription from the grave ;  
 Deathless, from repetition of reprieve.  
 Deathless? far from it! *such* are dead already ;  
 Their hearts are bury'd, and the world their grave.

Tell

Tell me, some god ! my guardian angel ! tell  
 What thus infatuates ? what enchantment plants  
 The phantom of an age 'twixt us, and death  
 Already at the door ? He knocks ; we hear him,  
 And yet we will not hear. What mail defends  
 Our untouched hearts ? What miracle turns off  
 The pointed thought, which from a thousand  
 quivers

Is daily darted, and is daily shunn'd ?  
 We stand, as in a battle, throngs on throngs  
 Around us falling ; wounded oft ourselves ;  
 Tho' bleeding with our wounds, immortal still !  
 We see time's furrows on another's brow,  
 And death intrench'd, preparing his assault ;  
 How few themselves, in that just mirror, see !  
 Or, seeing, draw their inference as strong !  
*There* death is certain ; doubtful *here* : he *must*,  
 And *soon* ; we *may*, within *an age*, expire.  
 Tho' grey our heads, our thoughts and aims are  
 green ;

Like damag'd clocks, whose hand and bell dissent ;  
*Folly* sings six, while *nature* points at twelve.

Absurd *longevity* ! More, more, it cries :  
 More life, more wealth, more trash of ev'ry kind.  
 And wherefore mad for more, when relish fails ?  
*Object*, and *appetite*, must club for joy ;  
 Shall *folly* labour hard to mend the bow,  
 Bawbles, I mean, that strike us from *without*,  
 While *nature* is relaxing ev'ry string ?

The R E L A P S E. 117

Ask *thought* for joy ; grow rich and hoard *within*.  
Think you the soul, when this life's rattles cease,  
Has nothing of more manly to succeed ?

Contract the taste immortal ; learn ev'n now  
To relish what *alone* subsists hereafter.

*Divine*, or *none*, henceforth your joys for ever.  
Of age the glory is, to *wish* to die.

That *wish* is *praise* and *promise* ; it applauds  
Past life, and promises our future bliss.

What weakness see not children in their fires ?  
Grand-climacterical absurdities !

Grey-hair'd authority, to faults of youth,  
How shocking ? It makes folly thrice a fool ;  
And our first childhood might our last despise.

*Peace* and *esteem* is all that age can hope.  
Nothing but *wisdom* gives the *first* ; the *last*,  
Nothing, but the *repute* of being *wise*.  
*Folly* bars both ; our age is quite undone.

What folly can be ranker ? Like our shadows,  
Our wishes lengthen, as our fun declines.  
No wish should loiter, *then*, this side the grave.  
Our hearts should leave the world, before the knell  
Calls for our carcases to mend the soil.

Enough to live in tempest : die in port.

*Age* should fly concourse, cover in retreat  
Defects of *judgment* ; and the *will's* subdue ;

Walk thoughtful on the silent solemn shore  
Of that vast ocean it must sail so soon ;

And put *good-works* on board ; and wait the wind

That

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That shortly blows us into worlds unknown ;  
If unconsider'd too, a dreadful scene !

All should be prophets to themselves ; foresee  
Their future fate ; their future fate foretaste ;  
This art would waste the bitterness of death.  
The *thought* of death alone, the *fear* destroys.  
A disaffection to that precious thought  
Is more than *midnight* darkness on the soul,  
Which sleeps beneath it, on a *precipice*,  
Puff'd off by the first blast, and lost for ever.

Dost ask, LORENZO, why so warmly prest,  
By repetition hammer'd on thine ear, [chine,  
The thought of death ? That thought is the ma-  
The grand machine ! that heaves us from the dust,  
And rears us into men. That thought, ply'd home,  
Will soon reduce the ghastly *precipice*  
O'er-hanging hell, will soften the descent,  
And gently slope our passage to the grave ;  
How warmly to be wisht ! What heart of flesh  
Would trifle with tremendous ? dare extremes ?  
Yawn o'er the fate of infinite ? What hand,  
Beyond the blackest brand of censure bold,  
(To speak a language *too well* known to thee)  
Would at a moment give its *all* to chance,  
And stamp the die for an eternity ?

Aid me, NARCISSA ! aid me to keep pace  
With *destiny* ; and ere her scissars cut  
My thread of life, to break this tougher thread  
Of moral death, that ties me to the world.

Sting

Sting thou my flumb'ring *reason* to send forth  
A thought of observation on the foe ;  
To sally ; and survey the rapid march  
Of his ten thousand messengers to man ;  
Who, JEHU-like, behind him turns them all.  
All accident apart, by *nature* sign'd,  
My warrant is gone out, tho' dormant yet ;  
Perhaps behind one moment looks my fate.

Must I then *forward* only look for death ?  
*Backward* I turn mine eye, and find him there.  
Man is a self-survivor ev'ry year.

Man, like a stream, is in perpetual flow.  
Death's a destroyer of quotidian prey.  
My *youth*, my *noon-tide*, his ; my *yesterday* ;  
The bold invader shares the *present* hour.  
Each moment on the former shuts the grave.  
While man is growing, life is in decrease ;  
And cradles rock us nearer to the tomb.  
Our birth is nothing but our death begun ;  
As tapers waste, that instant they take fire.

Shall we then fear, left that should come to pass,  
Which comes to pass each moment of our lives ?  
If fear we must, let *that* death turn us pale,  
Which murders *strength* and *ardor* ; what remains  
Should rather call on death, than dread his call.  
Ye partners of my fault, and my decline ! [knell  
Thoughtless of death, but when your neighbour's  
(Rude visitant !) knocks hard at your dull sense,  
And with its thunder scarce obtains your ear !

Be death your theme, in ev'ry place and hour ;  
 Nor longer want, ye monumental fires !  
 A brother tomb to tell you you shall die.  
 That death you *dread* (so great is nature's skill !)  
 Know, you shall *court*, before you shall enjoy.

But you are learn'd ; in volumes, deep you sit ;  
 In wisdom, shallow : pompous ignorance !  
 Would you be still more learned, than the learn'd ?  
 Learn well to know how much need not be known,  
 And what that *knowlege*, which impairs your *sense*,  
 Our needful knowlege, like our needful food,  
 Unhedg'd, lies open in life's common field ;  
 And bids all welcome to the vital feast.  
 You scorn what lies before you in the page  
 Of *nature*, and *experience*, moral truth ;  
 Of indispensible, eternal fruit ;  
 Fruit, on which mortals feeding, turn to gods :  
 And dive in *science* for distinguisht names,  
 Dishonest fomentation of your pride ;  
 Sinking in virtue, as you rise in fame.  
 Your learning, like the *lunar* beam, affords  
 Light, but not heat ; it leaves you undevout,  
 Frozen at heart, while speculation shines.  
 Awake, ye curious indagators ! fond  
 Of knowing all, but what avails you known.  
 If you would learn *death's character*, attend.  
 All casts of conduct, all degrees of health,  
 All dies of fortune, and all dates of age,  
 Together shook in his impartial urn,

Come forth at random : Or if choice is made,  
 The choice is quite *sarcastic*, and insults  
 All bold conjecture, and fond hopes of man.  
 What countless multitudes, not only *leave*,  
 But deeply *disappoint us*, by their deaths !  
 Tho' great our sorrow, greater our surprize.

Like other tyrants, *Death* delights to smite,  
 What, smitten, most proclaims the pride of power,  
 And arbitrary nod. His joy supreme,  
 To bid the wretch survive the fortunate ;  
 The feeble wrap th' athletic in his shroud ;  
 And weeping fathers build their childrens tomb :  
 Me, thine, NARCISSA !—What tho' short thy date ?  
*Virtue*, not rolling funs, the mind matures.  
 That life is long, which answers life's great end.  
 The time that bears no fruit, deserves no name ;  
 The man of wisdom is the man of years.  
 In hoary youth METHUSALEM may die ;  
 O how misdated on their flatt'ring tombs !

NARCISSA's *youth* has lectur'd me thus far.  
 And can her *gaiety* give counsel too ?  
 That, like the *Jews* fam'd oracle of gems,  
 Sparkles instruction ; such as throws new light,  
 And opens more the *character of death* ;  
 Ill known to thee, LORENZO ! This thy vaunt :  
 " Give death his due, the wretched, and the old ;  
 " Ev'n let him sweep his rubbish to the grave ;  
 " Let him not violate kind nature's laws,  
 " But own man born to *live*, as well as *die*."

*Wretched and old thou giv'st him ; young and gay  
He takes ; and plunder is a tyrant's joy.*

*What if I prove, " The farthest from the fear,  
" Are often neareſt to the ſtroke of fate ? "*

All, more than common, menaces an end.

A blaze betokens brevity of life :

As if bright embers ſhould emit a flame,  
Glad spirits ſparkled from NARCISSA's eye,

And made youth younger, and taught life to live,  
As nature's oppoſites wage endleſs war,

For this offence, as treason to the deep  
Inviolable stupor of his reign,

Where *lust*, and turbulent *ambition*, sleep,  
*Death* took ſwift vengeance. As he life deteſts,  
More life is ſtill more odious ; and, reduc'd  
By conqueſt, aggrandizes more his power.

But *wherefore* aggrandiz'd ? By Heav'n's decree,  
To plant the soul on her eternal guard,  
In aweful expeſtation of our end.

*Thus* runs death's dread commission : " Strike, but ſo,  
" As moſt alarms the living by the dead."

Hence *ſtratagem* delights him, and *furprize*,  
And cruel ſport with man's ſecuritieſ.

Not ſimple conqueſt, triumph is his aim ;  
And, where moſt fear'd, there conqueſt triumphs  
*This* proves my bold aſſertion not too bold. [moſt.

What are his arts to lay our fears aſleep ?  
*Tiberian* arts his purpoſes wrap up  
In deep diſſimulation's darkeſt night.

Like.

Like princes unconfeſt in foreign courts,  
 Who travel under cover, *death* assumes  
 The name and look of *life*, and dwells among us.  
 He takes all shapes that ſerve his black designs:  
 Tho' master of a wider empire far,  
 Than that, o'er which the *Roman* eagle flew;  
 Like *Nero*, he's a fidler, charioteer,  
 Or drives his *phaeton*, in female guise;  
 Quite unſuspected, till, the wheel beneath,  
 His diſarray'd oblation he devours.

He moſt affects the forms leaſt like himſelf,  
 His ſlender ſelf. Hence burly corpulence  
 Is his familiar wear, and ſleek diſguife.  
 Behind the roſy bloom he loves to lurk,  
 Or ambuſh in a ſinile; or wanton dive  
 In dimples deep; Love's eddies, which draw in  
 Unwary hearts, and ſink them in deſpair.  
 Such, on *NARCISSA*'s couch, he loiter'd long  
 Unknown; and, when detected, ſtill was ſeen  
 To ſmile; ſuch peace has innocence in death!

Moſt happy they! whom leaſt his arts deceiue.  
 One eye on *death*, and one full fix'd on *heaven*,  
 Becomes a mortal, and immortal man.  
 Long on his wiles a piqu'd and jealous ſpy,  
 I've ſeen, or dreamt I ſaw, the tyrant dress;  
 Lay by his horrors, and put on his ſmiles.  
 Say, muſe, for thou remember'ſt, call it back,  
 And ſhew *LORENZO* the ſurprizing ſcene;  
 If 'twas a dream, his genius can explain.

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'Twas in a circle of the gay I stood.  
*Death* would have enter'd; *nature* pusht him back;  
 Supported by a Doctor of renown,  
 His point he gain'd. Then artfully *dismift*  
 The sage; for *death* design'd to be conceal'd.  
 He gave an old vivacious *usurer*  
 His meagre aspect, and his naked bones;  
 In gratitude for plumping up his prey,  
 A pamper'd *spendthrift*; whose fantastic air,  
 Well-fashion'd figure, and cockaded brow,  
 He took in change, and underneath the pride  
 Of costly linen, tuck'd his filthy shroud.  
 His crooked bow he straiten'd to a cane;  
 And hid his deadly shafts in MYRA's eye.

The dreadful masquerader, thus equipt,  
 Out-sallies on adventures. Ask you where?  
 Where is he not? For his peculiar haunts,  
 Let this suffice; sure as night follows day,  
 Death treads in *pleasure*'s footsteps round the world,  
 When *pleasure* treads the paths, which *reason* shuns.  
 When, against *reason*, riot shuts the door,  
 And *gaiety* supplies the place of *sense*,  
 Then, foremost at the banquet, and the ball,  
 Death leads the dance, or stamps the deadly die;  
 Nor ever fails the midnight bowl to crown.  
 Gaily carousing to his gay compeers,  
 Only he laughs, to see them laugh at him,  
 As absent far: And when the revel burns,  
 When *fear* is banisht, and triumphant thought,

Calling

Calling for all the joys beneath the moon,  
Against him turns the key ; and bids him sup  
With their progenitors—He drops his mask ;  
Frowns out at full ; they start, despair, expire.

Scarce with more sudden terror and surprize,  
From his black masque of nitre, touch'd by fire,  
He bursts, expands, roars, blazes, and devours.  
And is not this triumphant treachery,  
And *more than simple conquest*, in the fiend ?

And now, LORENZO, dost thou wrap thy soul  
In soft security, because unknown  
Which moment is commission'd to destroy ?  
In *death's uncertainty* thy danger lies.  
Is *death uncertain*? Therefore Thou be fixt ;  
Fixt as a sentinel, all eye, all ear,  
All expectation of the coming foe.  
Rouse, stand in arms, nor lean against thy spear ;  
Lest slumber steal one moment o'er thy soul,  
And *fate* surprise thee nodding. Watch, be strong ;  
Thus give each day the merit, ard renown,  
Of dying well ; tho' doom'd but once to die.  
Nor let life's *period* hidden (as from most)  
Hide too from Thee the precious *use* of life.

Early, not sudden, was NARCISSA's fate.  
Soon, not surprising, *death* his visit paid.  
Her thought went forth to meet him on his way,  
Nor *gaiety* forgot it was to die :  
Tho' *fortune* too (our third and final theme),  
As an accomplice, play'd her gaudy plumes,

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And ev'ry glitt'ring gewgaw, on her sight,  
To dazzle, and debauch it from its mark.  
*Death's* dreadful advent is the mark of men;  
And ev'ry thought that misses it, is blind.  
*Fortune*, with youth and gaiety, conspir'd  
To weave a triple wreath of happiness,  
(If happiness on earth) to crown her brow.  
And could *death* charge thro' such a shining shield?

That shining shield *invites* the tyrant's spear;  
As if to damp our elevated aims,  
And strongly preach humility to man.  
O how portentous is prosperity!  
How, comet-like, it threatens, while it shines!  
Few years but yield us proof of *death's* ambition,  
To cull his victims from the fairest fold,  
And sheath his shafts in all the pride of life.  
When flooded with abundance, purpled o'er  
With recent honours, bloom'd with ev'ry bliss,  
Set up in ostentation, made the gaze,  
The gaudy centre, of the public eye,  
When *fortune* thus has toss'd her child in air,  
Snatcht from the covert of an humble state,  
How often have I seen him dropt at once,  
Our morning's envy! and our ev'ning's sigh!  
As if her bounties were the signal given,  
The flow'ry wreath to mark the sacrifice,  
And call death's arrows on the destin'd prey.

*High-fortune* seems in cruel league with *fate*.  
Ask you for what? To give his war on man

The

The deeper dread, and more illustrious spoil ;  
 Thus to keep daring mortals more in awe.  
 And burns LORENZO still for the sublime  
 Of life ? to hang his airy nest on high,  
 On the slight timber of the topmost bough,  
 Rockt at each breeze, and menacing a fall ?  
 Granting grim death at equal distance there ;  
 Yet *peace* begins just where *ambition* ends.  
 What makes man wretched ? Happiness deny'd ?  
 LORENZO ! no : 'Tis happiness *disdain'd*.  
*She* comes too meanly drest to win our smile ;  
 And calls herself *Content*, a homely name !  
 Our flame is *transport*, and *content* our scorn.  
*Ambition* turns, and shuts the door against her,  
 And weds a *toil*, a *tempest*, in her stead ;  
 A *tempest* to warm *transport* near of kin.  
 Unknowing what our mortal state admits,  
 Life's modest joys we ruin, while we raise ;  
 And all our ecstasies are wounds to *peace* ;  
*Peace*, the full portion of mankind below.

And since thy *peace* is dear, ambitious youth !  
 Of fortune fond ! as thoughtless of thy fate !  
 As late I drew *death*'s picture, to stir up  
 Thy wholsome fears ; now, drawn in contrast, see  
*Gay fortune's*, thy vain hopes to reprimand.  
 See, high in air, the sportive goddes hangs,  
 Unlocks her casket, spreads her glitt'ring ware,  
 And calls the giddy winds to puff abroad  
 Her random bounties o'er the gaping throng.

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All rush rapacious ; friends o'er trodden friends ;  
Sons o'er their fathers, subjects o'er their kings,  
Priests o'er their gods, and lovers o'er the fair,  
(Still more ador'd) to snatch the golden show'r.

Gold glitters most, where *virtue* shines no more ;  
As stars from absent suns have leave to shine.

O what a precious pack of votaries  
Unkennell'd from the prisons, and the stews,  
Pour in, all op'ning in their idol's praise !  
All, ardent, eye each wafture of her hand,  
And, wide-expanding their voracious jaws,  
Morsel on morsel swallow down unchew'd,  
Untasted, through mad appetite for more ;  
Gorg'd to the throat, yet lean and rav'ous still.  
Sagacious All, to trace the smallest game,  
And bold to seize the greatest. If (blest chance !)  
Court-zephyrs sweetly breathe, they launch, they  
O'er just, o'er facied, all forbidden ground, [fly,  
Drunk with the burning scent of place or pow'r,  
Staunch to the foot of lucre, till they die.

Or, if for men you take them, as I mark  
Their manners, thou their various fates survey.  
With aim mis-measur'd, and impetuous speed,  
*Some* darting, strike their ardent wish far off,  
Through fury to possess it : *some* succeed,  
But stumble, and let fall the taken prize.  
From *some*, by sudden blasts, 'tis whirl'd away,  
And lodg'd in bosoms that ne'er dream'd of gain.  
To *some* it sticks so close, that, when torn off,

Torn

Torn is the man, and mortal is the wound.  
*Some*, o'er-enamour'd of their bags, run mad,  
 Groan under gold, yet weep for want of bread.  
 Together *some* (unhappy rivals!) seize,  
 And rend abundance into poverty ;  
 Loud croaks the raven of the law, and smiles :  
 Smiles too the goddefs ; but smiles most at those,  
 (Just victims of exorbitant desire !)  
 Who perish at their own request, and, whelm'd  
 Beneath her load of lavish grants, expire.  
*Fortune* is famous for her numbers slain,  
 The number small, which happiness can bear.  
 Tho' *various* for a while their fates ; at last  
 One curse involves them all : At death's approach,  
 All read their riches backward into loss,  
 And mourn, in just proportion to their store.

And *death's* approach (if orthodox my song)  
 Is hasten'd by the lure of *fortune's* smiles.  
 And art thou still a glutton of bright gold ?  
 And art thou still rapacious of thy ruin ?  
*Death* loves a shining mark, a signal blow ;  
 A blow, which, while it executes, alarms :  
 And startles thousands with a single fall.  
 As when some stately growth of oak, or pine,  
 Which nods aloft, and proudly spreads her shade,  
 The sun's defiance, and the flock's defence ;  
 By the strong strokes of lab'ring hinds subdu'd,  
 Loud groans her last, and, rushing from her height,  
 In cumb'rous ruin, thunders to the ground :

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The conscious forest trembles at the shock,  
And hill, and stream, and distant dale, resound.

These high-aim'd darts of *death*, and these alone,  
Should I collect, my quiver would be full.

A quiver, which, suspended in mid air,  
Or near heav'n's *archer*, in the zodiac, hung,  
(So could it be) should draw the public eye,  
The gaze and contemplation of mankind!

A constellation awful, yet benign,  
To guide the gay thro' life's tempestuous wave;  
Nor suffer them to strike the common rock,  
"From greater danger to grow more secure,  
"And, wrapt in happiness, forget their fate."

LYSANDER, happy past the common lot,  
Was warn'd of danger, but too gay to fear.  
He woo'd the fair ASPASIA. She was kind:  
In youth, form, fortune, fame, they both were blest:  
All who knew, envy'd; yet in envy lov'd:  
Can fancy form more finish't happiness?  
Fixt was the nuptial hour. Her stately dome  
Rose on the sounding beach. The glitt'ring spires  
Float in the wave, and break against the shore:  
So break those glitt'ring shadows, human joys.  
The faithless morning smil'd: He takes his leave,  
'To re-embrace in ecstasies, at eve.  
The rising storm forbids. The news arrives:  
Untold, she saw it in her servant's eye.  
She felt it seen (her heart was apt to feel);  
And, drown'd, without the furious ocean's aid,

In suffocating sorrows, shares his tomb.  
Now, round the sumptuous, bridal monument,  
The guilty billows innocently roar ;  
And the rough sailor passing, drops a tear.  
A tear ?—Can tears suffice ?—But not for me.  
How vain our efforts ! and our arts, how vain !  
The distant train of thought I took, to shun,  
Has thrown me on my fate—These dy'd together ;  
Happy in ruin ! undivorc'd by death !  
Or ne'er to meet, or ne'er to part, is peace—  
NARCISSA ! pity bleeds at thought of thee.  
Yet thou wast only near me ; not myself.  
Survive myself ? That cures all other woe.  
NARCISSA lives ; PHILANDER is forgot.  
O the soft commerce ! O the tender tyes,  
Close-twisted with the fibres of the heart !  
Which, broken, break them ; and drain off the soul  
Of human joy ; and make it pain to live—  
And is it then to live ? When such friends part,  
'Tis the survivor dies—My heart, no more.



THE  
NIGHT the SIXTH.  
THE  
INFIDEL Reclaimed.  
IN TWO PARTS.

Containing

*The NATURE, PROOF, and IMPORTANCE,  
of IMMORTALITY.*

PART THE FIRST.

Where, among other things, GLORY and RICHES  
are particularly consider'd.

Humbly Inscribed to the Right Honourable

*HENRY PELHAM,*

First LORD COMMISSIONER of the TREASURY,  
and CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER.

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P R E F A C E.

*F*EW ages have been deeper in dispute about Religion, than this. The dispute about Religion, and the practice of it, seldom go together. The shorter, therefore, the dispute, the better. I think it may be reduced to this single question, Is man immortal, or is he not? If he is not, all our disputes are mere amusements, or trials of skill. In this case, Truth, Reason,

Reason, Religion, which give our discourses such pomp and solemnity, are (as will be shown) mere empty sounds, without any meaning in them. But if man is immortal, it will behove him to be very serious about eternal consequences; or, in other words, to be truly religious. And this great fundamental truth, unestablished, or unawakened in the minds of men, is, I conceive, the real source and support of all our infidelity; how remote soever the particular objections advanced may seem to be from it.

Sensible appearances affect most men much more than abstract reasonings; and we daily see bodies drop around us, but the soul is invisible. The power which inclination has over the judgment, is greater than can be well conceived by those that have not had an experience of it; and of what numbers is it the sad interest, that souls should not survive! The heathen world confessed, that they rather hoped, than firmly believed immortality; and how many heathens have we still amongst us! The sacred page assures us, that life and immortality is brought to light by the Gospel: But by how many is the Gospel rejected, or overlooked! From these considerations, and from my being, accidentally, privy to the sentiments of some particular persons, I have been long persuaded, that most, if not all, our Infidels (whatever name they take, and whatever scheme, for argument's sake, and to keep themselves in countenance, they patronize) are supported in their deplorable error, by some doubt of their

Immortality,

Immortality, at the bottom. And I am satisfied, that men once thoroughly convinced of their immortality, are not far from being Christians. For it is hard to conceive, that a man fully conscious eternal pain or happiness will certainly be his lot, should not earnestly, and impartially, inquire after the surest means of escaping one, and securing the other. And of such an earnest and impartial inquiry, I well know the consequence.

Here, therefore, in proof of this most fundamental truth, some plain arguments are offered; arguments derived from principles which Infidels admit in common with Believers; arguments, which appear to me altogether irrefutable; and such as, I am satisfied, will have great weight with all who give themselves the small trouble of looking seriously into their own bosoms, and of observing, with any tolerable degree of attention, what daily passes round about them in the world. If some arguments shall, here, occur, which others have declined, they are submitted, with all deference, to better judgments in this, of all points, the most important. For, as to the being of a God, that is no longer disputed; but it is undisputed for this reason only, viz. Because where the least pretence to reason is admitted, it must for ever be indisputable. And of consequence no man can be betrayed into a dispute of that nature by vanity; which has a principal share in animating our modern combatants against other articles of our belief.

**S**HE \* (for I know not yet her name in heaven)  
Not early, like NARCISSA, left the scene ;  
Nor sudden, like PHILANDER. What avail ?  
This seeming mitigation but inflames ;  
This fancy'd medicine heightens the disease.  
The longer known, the closer still she grev ;  
And gradual parting is a gradual death.  
'Tis the grim tyrant's engine, which extorts  
By tardy pressure's still-increasing weight,  
From hardest hearts, confession of distress.

O the long, dark approach thro' years of pain,  
Death's gall'ry ! (might I dare to call it so)  
With dismal doubt, and sable terror, hung ;  
Sick hope's pale lamp, its only glimm'ring ray :  
There fate my melancholy walk ordain'd,  
Forbid self-love itself to flatter, there.  
How oft I gaz'd, prophetically sad !  
How oft I saw her dead, while yet in smiles !  
In smiles she sunk her grief, to lessen mine.  
She spoke me comfort, and increas'd my pain,  
Like pow'rful armies trenching at a town,  
By slow, and silent, but resistless sap,  
In his pale progress gently gaining ground,  
Death urg'd his deadly siege ; in spite of art,  
Of all the balmy blessings nature lends  
To succour frail humanity. Ye stars !

\* Referring to Night the Fifth.

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(Not now *first* made familiar to my sight)  
And thou, O moon! bear witness; many a night  
*He* tore the pillow from beneath my head,  
Ty'd down my sore attention to the shock,  
By ceaseless depredations on a life  
Dearer than that he left me. Dreadful post  
Of observation! darker ev'ry hour!  
Less dread the day that drove me to the brink,  
And pointed at eternity below;  
When my soul shudder'd at futurity;  
When, on a moment's point, th' important dye  
Of life and death spun doubtful, ere it fell,  
And turn'd up life; my title to more woe.

But why more woe? More comfort let it be.  
Nothing is dead, but *that* which wish'd to die;  
Nothing is dead, but wretchedness and pain;  
Nothing is dead, but what encumber'd, gall'd,  
Block'd up the pass, and barr'd from *real life*:  
Where dwells *that* wish most ardent of the wise?  
Too dark the Sun to see it; highest stars  
Too low to reach it; *death*, great *death* alone,  
O'er stars and sun, triumphant, lands us there.

Nor dreadful our *transition*; tho' the mind,  
An artist at creating self-alarm,  
Rich in expedients for inquietude,  
Is prone to paint it dreadful. Who can take  
*Death's* portrait true? The tyrant never sat.  
Our sketch, all random strokes, conjecture all:  
Close shuts the grave; nor tells one single tale.

*Death,*

*Death*, and his *Image* rising in the brain,  
Bear faint resemblance ; never are alike ;  
*Fear* shakes the pencil, *fancy* loves excels,  
*Dark ignorance* is lavish of her shades ;  
And *these* the formidable picture draw.

But grant the worst ; 'tis past ; new prospects rise ;  
And drop a veil eternal o'er her tomb.  
Far other views our contemplation claim,  
Views that o'erpay the rigours of our life ;  
Views that suspend our agonies in death.  
Wrapt in the thought of *immortality*,  
Wrapt in the single, the triumphant thought !  
Long life might lapse, age unperceiv'd come on ;  
And find the soul unsated with her theme.  
Its *nature*, *proof*, *importance*, fire my song.  
O that my song could emulate my soul !  
Like her, immortal. No !—the soul disdains  
A mark so mean ; far nobler hope inflames ;  
If endless ages can outweigh an hour,  
Let not the *laurel*, but the *palm*, inspire.

Thy *nature*, *immortality* ! who knows ?  
And yet who knows it not ? It is but life  
In stronger thread of brighter colour spun,  
And spun for e'er ; dipt by cruel fate  
In *Stygian* dye, how black, how brittle here !  
How short our correspondence with the sun !  
And, while it lasts, inglorious ! Our best deeds  
How wanting in their weight ! Our highest joys  
Small cordials to support us in our pain,

And

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And give us strength to suffer. But how great  
To mingle int'rests, converse, amities,  
With all the sons of *reason*, scatter'd wide  
Through habitable space, where-ever born,  
Howe'er endow'd ! To live free citizens  
Of universal nature ! To lay hold  
By more than feeble *faith* on the *Supreme* !  
To call heav'n's rich unfathomable mines  
(Mines which support archangels in their state)  
Our own ! To rise in science, as in bliss,  
Initiate in the secrets of the skies !  
To read creation ; read its mighty plan  
In the bare bosom of the Deity !  
The plan, and execution, to collate !  
To see, before each glance of piercing thought,  
All cloud, all shadow, blown remote ; and leave  
No mystery—but that of Love divine,  
Which lifts us on the seraph's flaming wing,  
From earth's *Acellama*, this field of blood,  
Of inward anguish, and of outward ill,  
From darkness, and from dust, to such a scene !  
Love's element ! true joy's illustrious home !  
From earth's sad contrast (now deplo'rd) more fair !  
What exquisite vicissitude of fate !  
Blest absolution of our blackest hour !

LORENZO, these are thoughts that make man  
The wise illumine, aggrandize the great. [Man,  
How great (while yet we tread the kindred clod,  
And ev'ry moment fear to sink beneath

The

The clod we tread ; soon trodden by our sons) How great, in the wild whirl of time's pursuits, To stop, and pause, involv'd in high presage, Through the long vista of a thousand years, To stand contemplating our distant selves, As in a magnifying mirror seen, Enlarg'd, ennobled, elevate, divine ! To prophesy our own futurities ! To gaze in thought on what all thought transcends ! To talk, with fellow-candidates, of joys As far beyond conception, as desert, Ourselves th' astonish'd talkers, and the tale !

LORENZO, swells thy bosom at the thought ?  
The swell becomes thee : 'tis an honest pride.  
Revere thyself ;—and yet thyself despise.  
His *nature* no man can o'er-rate ; and none  
Can under-rate his *merit*. Take good heed ;  
Nor there be modest, where thou shouldest be proud ;  
That almost universal error shun.  
How *just* our pride, when we behold *those* heights !  
Not those *ambition* paints in air, but those  
*Reason* points out, and ardent *virtue* gains ;  
And angels emulate ; our pride how *just* !  
When mount we ? when these shackles cast ? when  
This cell of the creation ? this small nest, [quit  
Stuck in a corner of the universe,  
Wrapt up in fleecy cloud, and fine-spun air ?  
Fine-spun to sense ; but gross and feculent  
To souls celestial ; souls ordain'd to breathe

Ambrosial

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Ambrosial gales, and drink a purer sky ;  
Greatly triumphant on time's farther shore,  
Where virtue reigns, enrich'd with full arrears :  
While pomp imperial begs an alms of peace.

In empire high, or in proud science deep,  
Ye born of earth ! on what can you confer,  
With half the dignity, with half the gain,  
The gust, the glow of rational delight,  
As on this theme, which angels praise, and share ?  
Man's fates and favours are a theme in heaven.

What wretched repetition cloys us here !  
What periodic potions for the sick !  
Distemper'd bodies ! and distemper'd minds !  
In an eternity, what scenes shall strike !  
Adventures thicken ! novelties surprise !  
What webs of wonder shall unravel there !  
What full day pour on all the paths of heaven,  
And light th' A'mighty's footsteps in the deep !  
How shall the blessed day of our discharge  
Unwind, at once, the labyrinths of fate,  
And straiten its inextricable maze !

If inextinguishable thirst in man  
To know ; how rich, how full, our banquet there !  
*There*, not the moral world alone unfolds ;  
The world material, lately seen in shades,  
And, in those shades, by fragments only seen,  
And seen those fragm ents by the lab'ring eye,  
Unbroken, then, illustrious, and intire,  
Its ample sphere, its universal frame,

In

In full dimensions, swells to the survey ;  
And enters, at one glance, the ravish't sight.  
From some superior point (where, who can tell ?  
Suffice it, 'tis a point where gods reside)  
How shall the stranger man's illumin'd eye,  
In the vast ocean of unbounded space,  
Behold an infinite of floating worlds  
Divide the crystal waves of Ether pure,  
In endless voyage, without port ! The *least*  
Of these disseminated orbs, how great !  
Great as they are, what numbers These surpass,  
Huge, as *Leviathan*, to that small race,  
Those twinkling multitudes of little life,  
He swallows unperceiv'd ! *Stupendous* These !  
Yet what are these stupendous to the *Whole* ?  
As particles, as atoms, ill perceiv'd ;  
As circulating globules in our veins ;  
So vast the plan : Fecundity divine !  
Exub'rant source ! perhaps, I wrong thee still.

If admiration is a source of joy,  
What transpoit hence ! Yet this the least in heaven.  
What *this* to that illustrious robe *He* wears,  
Who tost this mass of wonders from his hand,  
A specimen, an earnest, of his power ?  
'Tis, to that *Glory*, whence all glory flows,  
As the mead's meanest flow'ret to the sun,  
Which gave it birth. But what, this sun of heaven ?  
This bliss supreme of the supremely blest ?  
Death, only death, the question can resolve.

By

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By death, cheap-bought th' ideas of our joy ;  
 The *bare* ideas ! Solid happiness  
 So distant from its shadow chas'd below.

And chase we still the phantom thro' the fire,  
 O'er bog, and brake, and precipice, till death ?  
 And toil we still for sublunary pay ?  
 Defy the dangers of the field and flood,  
 Or, spider-like, spin out our precious All,  
 Our *more* than vitals spin (if no regard  
 To great futurity) in curious webs  
 Of subtle thought, and exquisite design ;  
 (Fine net-work of the brain !) to catch a fly !  
 The momentary buz of vain renown !  
 A *name*, a mortal immortality !

Or (meaner still !) instead of grasping air,  
 For sordid *lucre* plunge we in the mire ?  
 Drudge, sweat, thro' ev'ry shame, for ev'ry gain,  
 For vile contaminating trash ; throw up  
 Our hope in heav'n, our dignity with man ?  
 And deify the dirt, matur'd to gold ?  
*Ambition, Av'rice, the two demons these,*  
*Which goad thro' ev'ry slough our human herd,*  
*Hard-travell'd from the cradle to the grave.*  
 How low the wretches stoop ! How steep they  
 climb !  
 These *demons* burn mankind ; but most possess  
 LORENZO's bosom, and turn out the skies.  
 Is it in *time* to hide *eternity* ?  
 And why not in an atom on the shore,

To

To cover ocean ? or a mote, the sun ?  
Glory and wealth ! have they this blinding power ?  
What if to them I prove LORENZO blind ?  
Would it surprise thee ? Be thou then surpris'd ;  
Thou neither know'st : their nature learn from me.

Mark well, as foreign as *these subjects* seem,  
What close connection ties them to my theme.  
First, what is *true* ambition ? The pursuit  
Of glory, nothing *less* than man can share.  
Were they as vain, as gaudy-minded man,  
As flatulent with fumes of self-applause,  
Their arts and conquests *animals* might boast,  
And claim their *laurel* crowns, as well as we ;  
But not *celestial*. Here we stand *alone* ;  
As in our form, distinct, pre-eminent ;  
If *prone* in thought, our stature is our *shame* ;  
And man should blush, his forehead meets the skies.  
The *visible* and *present* are for brutes,  
A slender portion ! and a narrow bound !  
These *reason*, with an *energy* divine,  
O'erleaps ; and claims the *future* and *unseen* ;  
The vast *unseen* ! the future fathomless !  
When the great soul buoys up to this high point,  
Leaving gross *nature*'s sediments below,  
Then, and then only, *Adam*'s offspring quits  
The sage and hero of the fields and woods,  
Asserts his rank, and rises into man.  
*This* is ambition : this is *human fire*.

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Can parts or place (two bold pretenders!) make  
LORENZO great, and pluck him from the throng?  
Genius and art, ambition's boasted wings,  
Our boast but ill deserve. A feeble aid!  
*Dedalian engin'ry!* If these alone  
Assist our flight, fame's flight is glory's fall.  
Heart-merit wanting, mount we ne'er so high,  
Our height is but the gibbet of our name.  
A celebrated wretch when I behold,  
When I behold a genius bright, and base,  
Of tow'ring talents, and terrestrial aims;  
Methinks I see, as thrown from her high sphere,  
The glorious fragments of a soul immortal,  
With rubbish mixt, and glitt'ring in the dust.  
Struck at the splendid, melancholy sight,  
At once compassion soft, and envy, rise —  
But wherefore envy? Talents angel-bright,  
If wanting worth, are shining instruments  
In false ambition's hand, to finish faults  
Illustrious, and give infamy renown.

Great ill is an achievement of great powers.  
Plain sense but rarely leads us far astray.  
Reason the means, affections chuse our end;  
Means have no merit, if our end amiss.  
If wrong our hearts, our heads are right in vain;  
What is a PELHAM's head, to PELHAM's heart?  
Hearts are proprietors of all applause.  
Right ends, and means, make wisdom: worldly-  
Is but half-witted, at its highest praise. [wise

Let *genius* then despair to make thee great;  
Nor flatter *station*: what is *station* high?  
'Tis a proud mendicant; it boasts, and begs;  
It begs an alias of homage from the throng,  
And oft the throng denies its charity.  
Monarchs, and ministers, are awful names;  
Whoever wear them, challenge our devoir.  
*Religion*, public order, both exact  
*External* homage, and a supple knee,  
To beings pomposly set up, to serve  
The meanest slave; *all more* is merit's due,  
*Her* sacred and inviolable right;  
Nor ever paid the *monarch*, but the *man*.  
Our hearts ne'er bow but to superior *worth*;  
Nor ever fail of their allegiance there.  
Fools, indeed, drop the *man* in their account,  
And vote the *mantle* into majesty.  
Let the *small savage* boast his silver fur;  
His royal robe unborrow'd, and unbought,  
His *own*, descending fairly from his fires.  
Shall man be proud to wear *his* livery,  
And souls in *ermine* scorn a soul without?  
Can *place* or lessen us, or aggrandize?  
Pygmies are pygmies still, tho' perch'd on *Alps*;  
And pyramids are pyramids in vales.  
Each man makes his own stature, builds himself;  
Virtue alone out-builds the *pyramids*;  
*Her* monuments shall last, when *Egypt's* fall.

Of these sure truths dost thou demand the cause?  
The cause is lodg'd in *immortality*.

Hear, and assent. Thy bosom burns for power;  
What station charms thee? I'll install thee there;  
'Tis thine. And art thou greater than *before*?  
Then thou before wast something *less* than man.  
Has thy new post betray'd thee into pride?  
That treach'rous pride betrays thy dignity;  
That pride defames humanity, and calls  
The being mean, which *staffs* or *strings* can raise.  
That pride, like hooded hawks, in darkness soars,  
From blindness bold, and tow'ring to the skies.  
'Tis born of *ignorance*, which knows not man:  
An angel's second; nor his second, long.

A NERO quitting his imperial throne,  
And courting glory from the tinkling string,  
But faintly shadows an immortal soul,  
With empire's self, to pride, or rapture, fir'd.  
If nobler motives minister no cure,  
Ev'n vanity forbids thee to be vain.

High worth is elevated place: 'tis more;  
It makes the post stand candidate for Thee;  
Makes more than monarchs, makes an honest  
man;  
Tho' no *exchequer* it commands, 'tis wealth:  
And tho' it wears no *ribband*, 'tis renown;  
Renown, that would not quit thee, tho' disgrac'd,  
Nor leave thee pendent on a master's simile.  
*Other* ambition *nature* interdicts;

Nature

Nature proclaims it most absurd in man,  
By pointing at his origin, and end ;  
Milk, and a swathe, *at first*, his whole demand ;  
His whole domain, *at last*, a turf, or stone ;  
To whom, *between*, a world may seem too small.

Souls *truly* great dart forward on the wing  
Of *just* ambition, to the grand result,  
The curtain's fall ; *there*, see the buskin'd chief  
Unshod behind this momentary scene ;  
Reduc'd to his own stature, low or high,  
As vice, or virtue, sinks him, or sublimes ;  
And laugh at this fantastic mummery,  
*This* antic prelude of grotesque events,  
Where dwarfs are often stilted, and betray  
A littleness of soul by worlds o'er-run,  
And nations laid in blood. Dread sacrifice  
To *christian* pride ! which had with horror shockt  
The darkest *pagans*, offer'd to their gods.

O Thou *most christian* enemy to peace !  
Again in arms ? again provoking fate ?  
That prince, and That alone, is truly great,  
Who draws the sword reluctant, gladly sheathes ;  
On empire builds what empire far outweighs,  
And makes his throne a scaffold to the skies.

Why *this* so rare ? because forgot of all  
The day of death ; that venerable day, [nounce  
Which fits as judge ; that day, which shall pro-  
On all our days, absolve them, or condemn.  
LORENZO, never shut thy thought against it ;

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Be levees ne'er so full, afford it room,  
And give it audience in the *cabinet*.  
That friend consulted, flatteries apart,  
Will tell thee fair, if thou art great, or mean.

To doat on aught may leave us, or be left,  
Is That *ambition*? Then let flames descend,  
Point to the centre their inverted spires,  
And learn humiliation from a soul,  
Which boasts her lineage from celestial fire.  
Yet *these* are they, the world pronounces wise.  
The world, which cancels nature's right and  
wrong,

And casts *new* wisdom: Ev'n the grave man lends  
His solemn face, to countenance the coin.  
Wisdom for parts is madness for the whole.  
This stamps the paradox, and gives us leave  
To call the wisest weak, the richest poor,  
The most ambitious, unambitious, mean;  
In triumph, mean; and abject, on a throne.  
Nothing can make it less than mad in man,  
To put forth all his ardor, all his art,  
And give his soul her full unbounded flight,  
But reaching *Him*, who gave her wings to fly.  
When blind ambition quite mistakes her road,  
And downward pores, for that which shines above,  
Substantial happiness, and true renown;  
Then, like an idiot gazing on the brook,  
We leap at stars, and fasten in the mud;  
At glory grasp, and sink in infamy.

Ambi-

*Ambition!* pow'ful source of good and ill !  
 Thy strength in man, like length of wing in birds,  
 When disengag'd from earth, with greater ease,  
 And swifter flight, transports us to the skies :  
 By toys entangled, or in guilt bemir'd,  
 It turns a curse ; it is our chain, and scourge,  
 In this dark dungeon, where confin'd we lie,  
 Close-grated by the sordid bars of *sense* ;  
 All prospect of eternity shut out ;  
 And, but for *execution*, ne'er set free.

With error in *ambition* justly charg'd,  
 Find we LORENZO wiser in his *wealth* ?  
 What if thy rental I reform ? and draw  
 An inventory *new* to set thee right ?  
 Where, thy *true* treasure ? Gold says, "Not in me :"  
 And, " Not in me," the di'mond. Gold is poor ;  
*India's* insolvent : seek it in thyself,  
 Seek in thy naked self, and find it there ;  
 In being so descended, form'd, endow'd ;  
 Sky-born, sky-guided, sky-returning race !  
 Erect, immortal, rational, divine !  
 In *senses*, which inherit earth, and heavens ;  
 Enjoy the various riches *nature* yields ;  
 Far nobler ! give the riches they enjoy ;  
 Give taste to fruits ; and harmony to groves ;  
 Their radiant beams to gold, and gold's bright Sire ;  
 Take in, at once, the landschape of the world,  
 At a small inlet, which a grain might close,  
 And half create the wond'rous world they see.

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Our *senses*, as our *reason*, are divine.  
But for the magic organ's pow'rful charm,  
Earth were a rude, uncolour'd chaos, still.  
*Objects* are but th' occasion; ours th' exploit;  
Ours is the cloth, the pencil, and the paint,  
Which nature's admirable picture draws;  
And beautifies creation's ample dome.  
Like Milton's *Eve*, when gazing on the lake,  
Man makes the matchless image, man admires.  
Say then, shall man, his thoughts all sent abroad,  
Superior wonders in himself forgot,  
His admiration waste on objects round,  
When heav'n makes him the soul of all he sees?  
Absurd! not rare! so great, so mean, is man.

What wealth in *senses* such as these! what wealth  
In *fancy*, fir'd to form a fairer scene  
Than *sense* surveys! in *mem'ry*'s firm record,  
Which, should it perish, could this world recall  
From the dark shadows of o'erwhelming years!  
In colours fresh, originally bright,  
Preserve its portrait, and report its fate!  
What wealth in *intellig*, that sov'reign power!  
Which *sense*, and *fancy*, summons to the bar;  
Interrogates, approves, or reprehends;  
And from the mass those *underlings* import,  
From their materials sifted, and refin'd,  
And in *truth*'s balance accurately weigh'd,  
Forms *art*, and *science*, *government*, and *law*;  
The solid basis, and the beauteous frame,

The

The vitals, and the grace of *civil* life !  
 And *manners* (sad exception !) set aside,  
 Strikes out, with master-hand, a copy fair  
 Of *his* idea, whose indulgent thought  
 Long, long, ere chaos teem'd, plann'd *human* bliss.

What *wealth* in souls that soar, dive, range a-  
 Disdaining limit, or from place, or time; [round,  
 And hear at once, in thought extensive, hear  
 Th' almighty *fiat*, and the *trumpet's* sound !  
 Bold, on creation's outside walk, and view  
 What was, and is, and *more* than e'er shall be ;  
 Commanding, with omnipotence of thought,  
 Creations new in fancy's field to rise !  
 Souls, that can grasp whate'er th' Almighty made,  
 And wander wild, through things impossible !  
 What *wealth*, in *faculties* of endless growth,  
 In quenchless *passions* violent to crave,  
 In *liberty* to chuse, in *pow'r* to reach,  
 And in *duration* (how thy riches rise !)  
 Duration to *perpetuate*—boundless bliss !

Ask you, what *pow'r* resides in feeble man,  
 That bliss to gain ? Is *virtue's*, then, unknown ?  
 Virtue, our present peace, our future prize.  
 Man's unprecious, natural estate,  
 Improveable at will, in virtue lies ;  
 Its tenure sure ; its income is divine.

High-built abundance, heap on heap ! for what ?  
 To breed new wants, and beggar us the more ;  
 Then, make a richer scramble for the throng ?

Soon as this feeble pulse, which leaps so long  
 Almost by miracle, is tir'd with play,  
 Like rubbish from exploding engines thrown,  
 Our magazines of hoarded trifles fly ;  
 Fly diverse ; fly to foreigners, to foes ;  
 New masters court, and call the former fool  
 (How justly !) for dependence on their stay.  
 Wide scatter, first, our play-things, then, our dust.

Dost court abundance for the sake of peace ?  
 Learn, and lament thy self-defeated scheme :  
 Riches enable to be richer still ;  
 And, *richer still*, what mortal can resist ?  
 Thus wealth (a cruel task-master !) enjoins  
 New toils, succeeding toils, an endless train !  
 And murders peace, which taught it first to shine.  
 The poor are *half* as wretched as the rich ;  
 Whose proud and painful privilege it is,  
 At once, to bear a double load of woe ;  
 To feel the stings of *envy*, and of *want*,  
 Outrageous want ! both *Indies* cannot cure.

A competence is vital to content.  
 Much wealth is corpulence, if not disease ;  
 Sick, or incumber'd, is our happiness.  
 A competence is all we can *enjoy*.  
 O be content, where heav'n can give no more !  
 More, like a flash of water from a lock,  
 Quickens our spirit's movement for an hour ;  
 But soon its force is spent, nor rise our joys  
 Above our native temper's common stream.

Hence

Hence disappointment lurks in ev'ry prize,  
As bees in flow'rs ; and stings us with success.

The rich man, who denies it, proudly feigns ;  
Nor knows the wise are privy to the lye.

Much learning shews how little mortals know ;  
Much wealth, how little worldlings can enjoy :

At best, it babies us with endless toys,  
And keeps us children till we drop to dust.

As monkies at a mirror stand amaz'd,  
They fail to find, what they so plainly see ;  
Thus men, in shining riches, see the face  
Of happiness, nor know it is a shade ;  
But gaze, and touch, and peep, and peep again,  
And wish, and wonder it is absent still.

How few can rescue opulence from want !  
Who lives to *nature*, rarely can be poor ;  
Who lives to *fancy*, never can be rich.  
Poor is the man in debt ; the man of gold,  
In debt to *fortune*, trembles at her power.  
The man of *reason* smiles at her and death.  
O what a patrimony this ! A *being*  
Of such inherent strength and majesty,  
Not worlds possess can raise it ; worlds destroy'd  
Can't injure ; which holds on its glorious course,  
When thine, O *nature* ! ends ; too blest to mourn  
Creation's obsequies. What treasure, *this* !  
The *monarch* is a beggar to the man.

Immortal ! ages past, yet nothing gone !  
Morn without eve ! a race without a goal !

Unshorten'd by progression infinite !  
 Futurity for ever future ! Life  
 Beginning still, where computation ends !  
 'Tis the description of a *Deity* !  
 'Tis the description of the *meanest slave* :  
 The *meanest slave* dares then LORENZO scorn ?  
 The *meanest slave* thy *sou'reign* glory shares.  
 Proud youth ! fastidious of the *lower world* !  
 Man's *lawful* pride includes humility ;  
 Stoops to the lowest ; is too great to find  
 Inferiors ; all immortal ! brothers all !  
 Proprietors eternal of thy love.

*Immortal* ! what can strike the *sense* so strong,  
 As this the *soul* ? It thunders to the thought ;  
 Reason amazes ; gratitude o'erwhelms ;  
 No more we slumber on the brink of fate ;  
 Rous'd at the sound, th' exulting soul ascends,  
 And breathes her native air ; an air that feeds  
 Ambitions high, and fans ethereal fires ;  
 Quick kindles all that is divine within us ;  
 Nor leaves one loit'ring thought beneath the stars.

Has not LORENZO's bosom caught the flame ?  
*Immortal* ! Were but *one* immortal, how  
 Would others envy ! how would thrones adore !  
 Because 'tis common, is the blessing lost ?  
 How *this* ties up the bounteous hand of heaven !  
 O vain, vain, vain, all else ! *Eternity* !  
 A glorious, and a *needful* refuge, that,  
 From vile imprisonment, in abject views.

'Tis

Tis *immortality*, 'tis that alone,  
Amid life's *pains*, *abasements*, *emptiness*,  
The soul can *comfort*, *elevate*, and *fill*.  
That only, and that amply, this performs ; .  
Lifts us above life's pains, her joys above ;  
Their terror *those* ; and *these* their lustre lose ;  
*Eternity* depending covers all ;  
*Eternity* depending all achieves ;  
Sets earth at distance ; casts her into shades ;  
Blends her distinctions, abrogates her pow'rs ;  
The low, the lofty, joyous, and severe,  
Fortune's dread frowns, and fascinating smiles,  
Make one promiscuous and neglected heap,  
The man beneath ; if I may call him man,  
Whom *Immortality*'s full force inspires.  
Nothing terrestrial touches his high thought ;  
Suns shine unseen, and thunders roll unheard,  
By minds quite conscious of their high descent,  
Their present province, and their future prize ;  
Divinely darting upward ev'ry wish,  
Warm on the wing, in glorious *absence* lost.

Doubt you this truth ? Why labours your belief ?

If earth's whole orb, by some due-distant eye  
Were seen at once, her tow'ring *Alps* would sink,  
And levell'd *Atlas* leave an even sphere.  
Thus *earth*, and all that earthly minds admire,  
Is swallow'd in *eternity*'s vast round.  
To that stupendous view, when souls awake,

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So large of late, so mountaineous to man,  
Time's toys subside ; and equal all below.

Enthusiastic, this ? Then all are weak,  
But rank enthusiasts. To this godlike height  
*Some* souls have soar'd ; or martyrs ne'er had bled.  
And all *may* do, what has by *man* been done.  
Who, beaten by these sublunary storms,  
Boundless, interminable joys can weigh,  
Unraptur'd, unexalted, uninflam'd ?  
What slave *unblest*, who from to-morrow's dawn  
Expect's an empire ? He forgets his chain,  
And, thron'd in thought, his *absent* sceptre waves.

And what a sceptre waits us ! what a throne !  
Her own immense appointments to compute,  
Or comprehend her high prerogatives,  
In this her dark minority, how toils,  
How vainly pants, the human soul divine !  
*Too great* the bounty seems for earthly joy ;  
What heart but *trembles* at so strange a bliss !

In spite of all the truths the muse has sung,  
Ne'er to be priz'd enough ! enough revolv'd !  
Are there, who wrap the world so close about them,  
They see no farther than the clouds ; and dance  
On heedless vanity's phantastic toe,  
'Till, stumbling at a straw, in their career,  
Headlong they plunge, where end both dance and  
song ?

Are there, LORENZO ? Is it possible ?  
Are there on earth (let me not call them men)

Who lodge a soul immortal in their breasts ;  
 Unconscious as the mountain of its ore ;  
 Or rock, of its inestimable gem ?  
 When rocks shall melt, and mountains vanish, *these*  
 Shall know their treasure ; treasure, then, no more.

Are there (still more amazing !) who resist  
 The rising thought ? who smother, in its birth,  
 The glorious truth ? who struggle to be brutes ?  
 Who thro' this bosom-barrier burst their way ?  
 And, with reverst ambition, strive to sink ?  
 Who labour downwards thro' th' opposing pow'rs  
 Of instinct, reason, and the world against them,  
 To dismal hopes, and shelter in the shock  
 Of endless night ? night darker than the grave's ?  
 Who fight the proofs of immortality ?  
 With horrid zeal, and execrable arts,  
 Work all their engines, level their black fires,  
 To blot from man *this* attribute divine,  
 (Than vital blood far dearer to the wise)  
 Blasphemers, and rank atheists to *themselves* ?

To contradict them, see all nature rise !  
 What object, what event, the moon beneath,  
 But argues, or endears, an after-scene ?  
 To reason proves, or weds it to desire ?  
 All things proclaim it *needful* ; some advance  
 One precious step beyond, and prove it *sure*.  
 A thousand arguments swarm round my pen,  
 From *heav'n, and earth, and man*. Indulge a few,

By

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By nature, as her *common habit*, worn ;  
So *pressing* Providence a truth to teach,  
Which truth untaught, all other truths were vain.

Thou ! whose all-providential eye surveys,  
Whose hand directs, whose spirit fills and warms  
Creation, and holds empire far beyond !

Eternity's inhabitant august !  
Of two eternities amazing Lord !  
One past, ere man's, or angel's, had begun ;  
Aid ! while I rescue from the foe's assault,  
*Thy* glorious immortality in *man* :  
A theme for ever, and for all, of weight,  
Of moment infinite ! but relish most  
By those, who love Thee most, who most adore.

*Nature*, thy daughter, ever-changing birth  
Of Thee the Great *Immutable*, to man  
Speaks wisdom ; is his oracle supreme ;  
And he who most consults her, is most wise.  
*LORENZO*, to this heav'nly *Delphos* haste ;  
And come back all-immortal ; all-divine :  
Look nature through, 'tis *revolution* all ;  
All change, no death. Day follows night ; and night  
The dying day ; stars rise, and set, and rise ;  
Earth takes th' example. See, the *Summer* gay,  
With her green chaplet, and ambrosial flowers,  
Droops into pallid *Autumn* : *Winter* grey,  
Horrid with frost, and turbulent with storm,  
Blows *Autumn*, and his golden fruits, away :

Then

Then melts into the Spring : soft Spring, with breath

*Favonian*, from warm chambers of the South,  
Recalls the first. All, to refLOURISH, fades.  
As in a wheel, all sinks, to reASCEND.

Emblems of man, who passes, not expires.

With this minute distinction, emblems just,  
*Nature* revolves, but man *advances*; both  
Eternal, *that* a circle, *this* a line.

*That* gravitates, *this* soars. Th' aspiring soul,  
Ardent, and tremulous, like flame, ascends,  
Zeal and humility her wings, to heaven.

The world of matter, with its various forms,  
All dies into new life. Life born from death  
Rolls the vast mass, and shall for ever roll.  
No single atom, once in being, lost,  
With change of counsel charges the most High.

What hence infers LORENZO? Can it be?

*Matter* immortal? and shall *spirit* die?

Above the nobler, shall less noble rise?

Shall Man alone, for whom all else revives,  
No resurrection know? Shall Man alone,  
Imperial Man! be sown in barren ground,  
Less privileg'd than grain, on which he feeds?  
Is Man, in whom alone is pow'r to prize  
The bliss of being, or with previous pain  
Deplore its period, by the spleen of fate,  
Severely doom'd *death's* single unredeem'd?

If

If nature's *revolution* speaks aloud,  
 In her *gradation*, hear her louder still.  
 Look nature thro', 'tis neat *gradation* all.  
 By what minute degrees her scale ascends !  
 Each middle nature join'd at each extreme,  
 To that above it join'd, to that beneath.  
 Parts, into parts reciprocally shot,  
 Abhor divorce : what love of union reigns !  
 Here, dormant matter waits a call to life ;  
 Half-life, half-death, join there ; here, life and  
 sense ;  
 There, sense from reason steals a glimm'ring ray ;  
 Reason shines out in man. But how preserv'd  
 The chain unbroken upward, to the realms  
 Of incorporeal life ; those realms of blifs,  
 Where death hath no dominion ? Grant a make  
 Half-mortal, half-immortal ; earthy, part ;  
 And part, ethereal ; grant the soul of man  
 Eternal ; or in man the series ends.  
 Wide yawns the gap ; connexion is no more ;  
 Checkt reason halts ; her next step wants support ;  
 Striving to climb, she tumbles from her scheme ;  
 A scheme, *analogy* pronounc'd so true ;  
*Analogy*, man's surest guide below.  
 Thus far, *all nature* calls on thy belief.  
 And will LORENZO, careles of the call,  
 False attestation on all nature charge,  
 Rather than violate his league with death ?  
 Renounce his reason, rather than renounce

The

The dust belov'd, and run the *risque* of heaven ?  
O what indignity to deathless souls !

What treason to the majesty of man !

Of man *immortal* ! Hear the lofty style :

" If so decreed, th' Almighty Will be done.

" Let earth dissolve, yon pond'rous orbs descend,

" And grind us into dust : the *soul* is safe ;

" The *man* emerges ; mounts above the wreck,

" As tow'ring flame from *nature's* funeral pyre ;

" O'er devastation, as a gainer, smiles ;

" His charter, his inviolable right,

" Well-pleas'd to learn from thunder's impotence,

" Death's pointless darts, and hell's defeated  
storms."

But these chimæras touch not thee, LORENZO,  
The glories of the world thy sev'nfold *shield*.

*Other* ambition than of crowns in air,

And superlunary felicities,

Thy bosom warm. I'll cool it, if I can ;

And turn those glories that enchant, against thee.

What ties thee to *this* life, proclaims the *next*.

If wise, the cause that wounds thee is thy cure.

Come, my *ambitus* ! let us mount together  
(To mount LORENZO never can refuse) ;  
And from the clouds, where pride delights to dwell,  
Look down on earth.—What seekst thou? won-  
d'rous things!

Terrestrial wonders, that eclipse the skies.

What lengths of labour'd lands ! what loaded seas !

Loaded

Loaded by man, for pleasure, wealth, or war !  
Seas, winds, and planets, into service brought,  
His art acknowlege, and promote his ends.  
Nor can th' eternal rocks his will withstand ;  
What levell'd mountains ! and what lifted vales !  
O'er vales and mountains sumptuous cities swell,  
And gild our landschape with their glitt'ring spires.  
Some 'mid the wond'ring waves majestic rise ;  
And *Neptune* holds a mirror to their charms.  
Far greater still ! (what cannot mortal might ?)  
See, wide dominions ravish't from the deep !  
The narrow'd deep with indignation foams.  
Or southward turn ; to *delicate* and *grand*,  
The finer arts there ripen in the sun.  
How the tall temples, as to meet their gods,  
*Ascend* the skies ! the proud triumphal arch  
Shews us half Heav'n beneath its ample bend.  
High thro' mid air, *here*, streams are taught to flow ;  
Whole rivers, *there*, laid by in basons, sleep.  
*Here*, plains turn oceans ; *there*, vast oceans join  
Thro' kingdoms chanell'd deep from shore to shore ;  
And chang'd creation takes its face from man.  
Beats thy brave breast for formidable scenes,  
Where fame and empire wait upon the sword ?  
See fields in blood ; hear naval thunders rise ;  
BRITANNIA's voice ! that awes the world to peace.  
How yon enormous mole projecting breaks  
The mid-sea, furious waves ! their roar amidst,  
Out-speaks the Deity, and says, " O main !

" Thus

" Thus far, nor farther : new restraints obey,"  
Earth's disembowel'd ! measur'd are the skies !  
Stars are detected in their deep recess !  
Creation widens ! vanquish'd *nature* yields !  
Her secrets are extorted ! *art* prevails !  
What monument of genius, spirit, power !

And now, LORENZO ! raptur'd at this scene,  
Whose glories render heav'n superfluous ! say,  
Whose footsteps these ?—*Immortals* have been here.  
Could less than souls immortal this have done ?  
Earth's cover'd o'er with proofs of souls immortal ;  
And proofs of immortality forgot.

To flatter thy grand foible, I confess,  
These are *ambition*'s works : and these are great :  
But *this*, the least immortal souls can do ;  
Transcend them all.—But what can these transcend ?  
Dost ask me what ?—One sigh for the *distrest*.  
What then for *infidels* ? A deeper sigh.

'Tis *moral grandeur* makes the mighty man :  
How little they, who think aught great below ?  
All our ambitions death defeats, but one ;  
And that it crowns.—Here cease we : but, ere long,  
More pow'rful *proof* shall take the field against thee,  
Stronger than death, and smiling at the tomb.



NIGHT the SEVENTH.  
BEING THE  
SECOND PART  
OF THE  
INFIDEL Reclaimed.

Containing

*The NATURE, PROOF, and IMPORTANCE,  
of IMMORTALITY.*

---

P R E F A C E.

*A*s we are at war with the power, it were well if we were at war with the manners, of France. A land of levity, is a land of guilt. A serious mind is the native soil of every virtue; and the single character that does true honour to mankind. The soul's immortality has been the favourite theme with the serious of all ages. Nor is it strange; it is a subject by far the most interesting, ~~and~~ and important, that can enter the mind of man. Of ~~infl~~ highest moment this subject always was, and always ~~a~~ will be. Yet this its highest moment seems to admit ~~men~~ of increase, at this day; a sort of occasional im- ~~ma~~ pertance is superadded to the natural weight of it; ~~an~~ if

if that opinion which is advanced in the preface to the preceding night, be just. It is there supposed, that all our infidels, whatever scheme, for argument's sake, and to keep themselves in countenance, they patronize, are betray'd into their deplorable error, by some doubt of their immortality, at the bottom. And the more I consider this point, the more am I persuaded of the truth of that opinion. That the distrust of a futurity is a strange error; yet is it an error into which bad men may naturally be disengaged. For it is impossible to bid defiance to final ruin, without some refuge in imagination, some presumption of escape. And what presumption is there? There are but two in nature; but two, within the compass of human thought. And these are—That either GOD will not, or can not punish. Considering the Divine Attributes, the first is too gross to be digested by our strongest wishes. And since Omnipotence is as much a Divine Attribute as Holiness, that GOD cannot punish, is as absurd a supposition, as the former. GOD certainly can punish, as long as wicked men exist. In non-existence, therefore, is their only refuge; and, consequently, non-existence is their strong, strongest wish. And strong wishes have a strange influence on our opinions; they bias the judgment in always a manner, almost, incredible. And since on this admit member of their alternative, there are some very small appearances in their favour, and none at all of it; in the other, they catch at this reed, they lay hold if on

on this chimæra, to save themselves from the shock and horror of an immediate and absolute despair.

On reviewing my subject, by the light which this argument, and others of like tendency, threw upon it, I was more inclin'd than ever to pursue it, as it appear'd to me to strike directly at the main root of all our infidelity. In the following pages, it is, accordingly, pursued at large; and some arguments for immortality, new at least to me, are ventured on in them. There also the writer has made an attempt to set the gross absurdities and horrors of annihilation in a fuller and more affecting view, than is (I think) to be met with elsewhere.

The gentlemen, for whose sake this attempt was chiefly made, profess great admiration for the wisdom of heathen antiquity: what pity 'tis they are not sincere! If they were sincere, how would it mortify them to consider, with what contempt, and abhorrence, their notions would have been received, by those whom they so much admire? what degree of contempt, and abhorrence, would fall to their share, may be conjectured by the following matter of fact (in my opinion), extremely memorable. Of all their heathen worthies, Socrates ('tis well known) was the most guarded, dispassionate, and composed: yet this great master of temper was angry; and angry at his last hour; and angry with his friend; and angry for what deserv'd acknowledgement; angry, for a right and tender instance of true friendship towards

him. Is not this surprising? What could be the cause? The cause was for his honour; it was a truly noble, tho', perhaps, a too punctilious, regard for immortality: for his friend asking him, with such an affectionate concern as became a friend, "Where he should deposit his remains?" it was resented by Socrates, as implying a dishonourable supposition, that he could be so mean, as to have regard for any thing, even in himself, that was not IMMORTAL.

This fact, well considered, would make our infidels withdraw their admiration from Socrates; or make them endeavour, by their imitation of this illustrious example, to share his glory: and, consequently, it would incline them to peruse the following pages with candor and impartiality: which is all I desire; and that, for their sakes: for I am persuaded, that an unprejudiced infidel must, necessarily, receive some advantageous impressions from them.

July 7, 1744.



**H**EAV'N gives the needful, but neglected, call.  
What day, what hour, but knocks at hu-  
man hearts,  
To wake the soul to sense of future scenes?  
Deaths stand, like Mercurys, in ev'ry way;  
And kindly point us to our journey's end.  
him.

POPE,

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POPE, who couldst make immortals! art thou dead?  
 I give thee joy: nor will I take my leave;  
 So soon to follow. Man but dives in death;  
 Dives from the sun, in fairer day to rise;  
 The grave, his subterranean road to bliss.  
 Yes, infinite indulgence plann'd it so;  
 Thro' various parts our glorious story runs;  
 Time gives the preface, *endless age* unrolls  
 The volume (ne'er unroll'd!) of human fate.

*This, earth and skies* \* already have proclaim'd.  
 The world's a prophecy of worlds to come;  
 And who, what GOD foretels (who speaks in *things*,  
 Still louder than in *words*) shall dare deny?  
 If nature's arguments appear too weak,  
 Turn a new leaf, and stronger read in *man*.  
 If man sleeps on, untaught by what he *sees*,  
 Can he prove infidel to what he *feels*?  
 He, whose blind thought futurity denies,  
 Unconscious bears, BELLEROPHON! like thee,  
 His own indictment; he condemns himself;  
 Who reads his bosom, reads immortal life;  
 Or, *nature*, there, imposing on her sons,  
 Has written fables; man was made a *lye*.

Why discontent for ever harbour'd there?  
 Incorrible consumption of our peace!  
 Resolve me, why, the *cottager*, and *king*,  
 He whom sea-fever'd realms obey, and he

\* Night the Sixth.

Who steals his whole dominion from the waste,  
Repelling winter blasts with mud and straw,  
Disquieted alike, draw sigh for sigh,  
In fate so distant, in complaint so near?

Is it, that things *terrestrial* can't content?  
Deep in rich pasture will thy flocks complain?  
Not so; but to their master is deny'd  
To share their sweet *serene*. Man, ill at ease,  
In this, not *his own* place, this foreign field,  
Where nature fodders him with other food,  
Than was ordain'd his cravings to suffice,  
Poor in abundance, famish'd at a feast,  
Sighs on for something *more*, when *most* enjoy'd.  
Is Heav'n then kinder to thy flocks than thee?  
Not so; thy pasture richer, but remote;  
In part, remote; for that remoter part  
Man bleats from *instinct*, tho', perhaps, debauch'd  
By *sense*, his *reason* sleeps, nor dreams the cause.  
The cause how obvious, when his reason wakes!  
His grief is but his grandeur in disguise;  
And discontent is *immortality*.

Shall sons of æther, shall the blood of heaven,  
Set up their hopes on earth, and stable *here*,  
With brutal acquiescence in the mire?  
**LORENZO!** no; they shall be nobly pain'd;  
The glorious *foreigners*, distrest, shall sigh  
On thrones; and thou *congratulate* the sigh:  
Man's misery declares him born for bliss;

His anxious heart asserts the truth I sing,  
And gives the sceptic in his head the lye.

Our heads, our hearts, our *passions*, and our  
*powers*,

Speak the same language; call us to the skies;  
Unripen'd *these* in this inclement clime,  
Scarce rise above conjecture, and mistake;  
And for this land of trifles *those* too strong  
'Tumultuous rise, and tempest human life:  
What prize on earth can pay us for the storm?  
Meet objects for our *passions* heav'n ordain'd,  
Objects that challenge all their fire, and leave  
No fault, but in defect: blest Heav'n! avert  
A bounded ardor for unbounded bliss;  
O for a bliss *unbounded!* far beneath  
A soul immortal, is a mortal joy.  
Nor are our *powers* to perish immature;

But, after feeble effort *here*, beneath  
A brighter sun, and in a nobler soil,  
Transplanted from this sublunary bed,  
Shall flourish fair, and put forth all their bloom.

Reason progressive, *instinct* is complete:  
Swift *instinct* leaps; slow *reason* feebly climbs.  
*Brutes* soon their zenith reach; their little all  
Flows in at once; in ages they no more  
Could know, or do, or covet, or enjoy.  
Were man to live *coëval* with the sun,  
The patriarch-pupil would be learning still;  
Yet, dying, leave his lesson half-unlearnt.

Men perish in advance, as if the sun  
Should set ere noon, in *Eastern* oceans drown'd;  
And our fit, with dim, illustrious to compare,  
The sun's *meridian*, with the soul of man.  
To man, why, stepdame *nature*! so severe?  
Why thrown aside thy master-piece half-wrought,  
While meaner efforts thy last hand enjoy?  
Or, if abortively, poor man must die,  
Nor reach, what reach he might, why die in *dread*?  
Why curst with foresight? wise to misery?  
Why of his proud prerogative the prey?  
Why less pre-eminent in rank, than pain?  
His *immortality* alone can tell!  
Full ample fund to balance all amiss,  
And turn the scale in favour of the just!  
His *immortality* alone can solve  
That darkest of *ænigmas*, human *hope*;  
Of all the darkest, if at death we die.  
*Hope*, eager hope, th' assassin of our joy,  
All present blessings treading under-foot,  
Is scarce a milder tyrant than *despair*.  
With no past toils content, still planning new,  
*Hope* turns us o'er to death alone for ease.  
*Possession*, why more tasteless than *pursuit*?  
Why is a wish far dearer than a crown?  
That wish accomplish'd, why, the grave of bliss?  
Because, in the great *future* bury'd deep,  
Beyond our plans of empire, and renown,

Lies all that man with ardor should pursue ;  
And he who made him, bent him to the right.

Man's heart th' ALMIGHTY to the future sets,  
By secret and inviolable springs ;  
And makes his hope his sublunary joy.  
Man's heart eats all things, and is hungry still ;  
“ More, more ! ” the glutton cries : for something  
So rages appetite, if man can't mount, [new  
He will descend. He starves on the *posset*.  
Hence, the world's master, from ambition's spire,  
In *Caprea* plung'd ; and div'd beneath the brute.  
In that rank sty why wallow'd empire's son  
Supreme ? Because he could no higher fly :  
His riot was *ambition* in despair.

Old *Rome* consulted birds : LORENZO ! thou  
With more success, the flight of *hope* survey ;  
Of restless hope, for ever on the wing.  
High-perch'd o'er ev'ry thought that falcon sits,  
To fly at all that rises in her sight ;  
And, never stooping, but to mount again  
Next moment, she betrays her aim's mistake,  
And owns her quarry lodg'd beyond the grave.

There should it fail us (it must fail us there,  
If *being* fails), more mournful riddles rise,  
*Virtue* vies with *hope* in mystery.  
Why *virtue* ? where its praise, its being, fled ?  
*Virtue* is true self-interest pursu'd :  
What true self-int'rest of *quite-mortal* man ?  
To close with all that makes him happy *here*.

If vice (as sometimes) is our friend on earth,  
Then vice is virtue ; 'tis our *sov'reign* good.  
In *self-applause* is virtue's golden prize ;  
No self-applause attends it on *thy* scheme :  
Whence self-applause ? From conscience of the right.  
And what is right, but means of happiness ?  
No means of happiness when *virtue* yields ;  
That basis failing, falls the building too,  
And lays in ruin ev'ry *virtuous* joy.

The rigid guardian of a blameless heart,  
So long rever'd, so long reputed wise,  
Is weak ; with rank knight-errantries o'er run.  
Why beats thy bosom with illustrious dreams  
Of self-exposure, laudable, and great ?  
Of gallant enterprize, and glorious death ?  
Die for thy country !—thou romantic fool !  
Seize, seize the plank thyself, and let her sink :  
Thy *country* ! what to thee ?—the *Godhead*, what ?  
(I speak with awe !) tho' He should bid thee bleed ?  
If, with thy blood, thy *final* hope is spilt,  
Nor can omnipotence reward the blow,  
Be deaf ; preserve thy being ; disobey.

Nor is it disobedience : know, LORENZO !  
Whate'er th' ALMIGHTY's subsequent command,  
His first command is *this*,—“ Man, love thyself.”  
In this alone, free-agents are *not* free.  
Existence is the basis, bliss the prize :  
If *virtue* costs existence, 'tis a crime ;  
Bold violation of our law *supreme*,

Black suicide ; tho' nations, which consult  
Their gain, at thy expence, resound applause.

Since *virtue's* recompence is doubtful, *here*,  
If man dies wholly, well may we demand,  
Why is man *suffer'd* to be good in vain ?  
Why to be good in vain, is man *injoin'd* ?  
Why to be good in vain, is man *betray'd* ?  
Betray'd by traitors lodg'd in his own breast,  
By sweet complacencies from virtue felt ?  
Why whispers *nature* lyes on virtue's part ?  
Or if blind *instinct* (which assumes the name  
Of sacred conscience) plays the fool is man,  
Why *reason* made accomplice in the cheat ?  
Why are the *wisest* loudest in her praise ?  
Can man by *reason's* beam be led astray ?  
**Or**, at his peril, *imitate his God* ?  
Since *virtue* sometimes ruins us on earth,  
Or *both* are true ; or, man survives the grave.

Or man survives the grave, or own, **LORENZO**,  
Thy boast supreme, a wild absurdity.  
Dauntless thy spirit ; cowards are thy scorn.  
Grant man *immortal*, and thy scorn is just.  
The *man immortal*, *rationally* brave,  
Dares rush on death—because he cannot die.  
But if man loses All, when life is lost,  
He lives a coward, or a fool expires.  
A *daring infidel* (and such there are,  
From pride, example, lucre, rage, revenge,

Or

Or pure heroical defect of thought),  
Of all earth's madmen, most deserves a chain.

When to the grave we follow the renown'd  
For valour, virtue, science, all we love,  
And all we praise; for *worth*, whose noon-tide  
Enabling us to think in higher stile, [beam,  
Mends our ideas of ethereal powers;  
Dream we, that lustre of the *moral* world  
Goes out in stench, and rottenness the close?  
Why was he wise to *know*, and warm to *praise*,  
And strenuous to *transcribe*, in human life,  
The mind ALMIGHTY? Could it be, that fate,  
Just when the lineaments began to shine,  
And dawn the DEITY, should snatch the draught,  
With night eternal blot it out, and give  
The skies alarm, lest *angels* too might die?

If human souls, why not angelic too  
Extinguish'd? and a *solitary* GOD,  
O'er ghastly ruin, frowning from his throne?  
Shall we, this moment, gaze on GOD in man?  
The next, lose man for ever in the dust?  
From dust we disengage, or man *mistakes*;  
And there, where least his judgment fears a flaw.  
*Wisdom*, and *worth*, how boldly he commends!  
*Wisdom*, and *worth*, are sacred names; rever'd,  
Where not embrac'd; applauded! deify'd!  
Why not *compassion'd* too? If spirits die,  
Both are calamities, inflicted both,  
To make us but more wretched: *Wisdom's* eye

Acute, for what? To spy more miseries;  
 And *worth*, so recompens'd, new-points their stings.  
 Or man surmounts the grave, or gain is loss,  
 And worth exalted *bumbles* us the more.

'Thou wilt not patronize a scheme that makes  
*Weakness*, and *vice*, the refuge of mankind.

" Has virtue, then, no joys!"—Yes, joys dear-bought.

Talk ne'er so long, in this imperfect state,  
 Virtue, and vice, are at eternal war:  
*Virtue's* a combat; and who fights for nought?  
 Or for precarious, or for small reward?  
 Who *virtue's* self-reward so loud resound,  
 Would take degrees *angelic* here below,  
 And *virtue*, while they compliment, betray,  
 By feeble motives, and unfaithful guards:  
 The crown, th' *unfading* crown, her soul inspires:  
 'Tis That, and That alone, can countervail  
 'The body's treach'ries, and the world's assaults:  
 On earth's poor pay, our famisht virtue dies.  
 Truth incontestable! in spite of all  
 A BAYLE has preach'd, or a V—E believ'd.

In man the more we dive, the more we see  
 Heav'n's signet stamping an *immortal* make.  
 Dive to the bottom of his soul, the base  
 Sustaining all; what find we? *Knowlege, Love,*  
 As light, and heat, essential to the sun,  
*These* to the soul. And *why*, if souls expire?  
 How little lovely *here*? how little known?

Small

Small knowledge we dig up with endless toil ;  
And love unfeign'd may purchase perfect hate.  
Why starv'd, on earth, our *angel*-appetites ;  
While *brutal* are indulg'd their fulsome fill ?  
Were then capacities *divine* conferr'd,  
As a mock-diadem, in savage sport,  
Rank insult of our pompous *poverty*,  
Which reaps but pain, from seeming claims so fair ?  
In future age lies no redress ? and shuts  
*Eternity* the door on our complaint ?  
If so, for what strange ends were mortals made !  
The worst to *wallow*, and the best to *weep* :  
The man who merits most, must most complain :  
Can we conceive a disregard in Heaven,  
What the worst *perpetrate*, or best *endure* ?

*This* cannot be. To *love*, and *know*, in man  
Is boundless appetite, and boundless power ;  
And these demonstrate boundless objects too.  
Objects, pow'rs, appetites, Heav'n suits in all ;  
Nor, *nature* thro', e'er violates this sweet,  
Eternal concord, on her tuneful string.  
Is *man* the sole exception from her laws ?  
*Eternity* struck off from human hope,  
(I speak with truth, but veneration too)  
Man is a monster, the reproach of Heaven,  
A stain, a dark impenetrable cloud  
On nature's beauteous aspect ; and deforms,  
(Amazing blot !) deforms her with her *Lord*.

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If such is man's allotment, what is Heaven?

Or, own the soul immortal, or blaspheme.

Or own the soul immortal, or invert  
All order. Go, mock-majesty! go, man!

And bow to thy superiors of the stall;

Thro' ev'ry scene of sense superior far!

They graze the turf untill'd; they drink the stream  
Unbrew'd, and ever full, and un-embitter'd  
With doubts, fears, fruitless hopes, regrets, despairs,  
Mankind's peculiar! reason's precious dower!

No foreign clime they ransack for their robes;  
Nor brothers cite to the litigious bar:

Their good is good intire, unmixt, unmarr'd;  
They find a paradise in ev'ry field,

On boughs forbidden where no curses hang:

Their ill no more than strikes the sense; unstretcht  
By previous dread, or murmur in the rear:

When the worst comes, it comes unfear'd; one stroke  
Begins, and ends, their woe: they die but once;  
Blest, incommunicable privilege! for which  
Proud man, who rules the globe, and reads the  
Philosopher, or hero, sighs in vain. [stars,

Account for this prerogative in brutes.

No day, no glimpse of day, to solve the knot,  
But what beams on it from eternity.

O sole and sweet solution! that unties

The difficult, and softens the severe;

The cloud on nature's beauteous face dispels;  
Restores bright order; casts the brute beneath;

And

And re-inthrones us in supremacy  
Of joy, ev'n here : Admit immortal life,  
And virtue is knight-errantry no more ;  
Each *virtue* brings in hand a golden dower,  
Far richer in reversion : *hope* exults ;  
And tho' much bitter in our cup is thrown,  
Predominates, and gives the taste of heaven.  
O wherefore is the DEITY so kind ?  
Astonishing beyond astonishment !  
Heav'n our reward—for heav'n enjoy'd below.

Still unsubdu'd thy stubborn heart ?—For there  
The traitor turks, who doubts the truth I sing.  
*Reason* is guiltless ; *will* alone rebels.  
What, in that stubborn heart, if I should find  
New, unexpected witnesses against thee ?  
*Ambition, pleasure, and the love of gain !*  
Canst thou suspect, that *these*, which make the soul  
The *slave* of earth, should own her *heir* of heav'n ?  
Canst thou suspect what makes us *disbelieve*  
Our immortality, should prove it *sure* ?

First, then, *ambition* summon to the bar.  
*Ambition's shame, extravagance, disgust,*  
And *inextinguishable nature*, speak.  
Each much *deposes* ; hear them in their turn.

Thy soul, how passionately fond of *fame* !  
How anxious, that fond passion to conceal !  
We blush, detected in designs on praise,  
Tho' for best deeds, and from the best of men.  
And why ? Because *immortal*. Art divine

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Has made the body tutor to the soul.  
Heav'n kindly gives our blood a moral flow ;  
Bids it ascend the glowing cheek, and there  
Upbraid that little heart's inglorious aim,  
Which stoops to court a character from man ;  
While o'er us, in tremendous judgment, sit  
Far more than man, with *endless* praise, and blame.

Ambition's boundless appetite out-speaks  
The verdict of its *shame*. When souls take fire  
At high presumptions of their own desert,  
*One* age is poor applause ; the mighty shout,  
The thunder by the living *few* begun,  
Late time must echo ; worlds unborn, resound.  
We wish our names *eternally* to live :  
Wild dream ! which ne'er had haunted human  
Had not our natures been *eternal* too. [thought,  
*Instinct* points out an int'rest in hereafter ;  
But our blind *reason* sees not where it lies ;  
Or, seeing, gives the substance for the shade.

Fame is the shade of immortality,  
And in itself a shadow. Soon as caught,  
Contemn'd ; it shrinks to nothing in the grasp.  
Consult th' ambitious, 'tis ambition's cure.  
" And is this all ? " cry'd CÆSAR at his height,  
*Disgusted*. This *third* proof ambition brings  
Of immortality. The first in fame,  
Observe him near, your envy will abate :  
Sham'd at the disproportion vast, between  
The passion, and the purchase, he will sigh

At

At such success, and blush at his renown.  
And why? Because far richer prize invites  
His heart; far more illustrious glory calls;  
It calls in whispers, yet the deafest hear.

And can ambition a fourth proof supply?  
It can, and stronger than the former three;  
Yet quite o'er-look'd by some reputed wise.  
Tho' disappointments in ambition *pain*;  
And tho' success *disgusts*; yet still, LORENZO!  
In vain we strive to pluck it from our hearts;  
By nature planted for the noblest ends.  
Absurd the fam'd advice to PYRRHUS giv'n,  
More prais'd than ponder'd; specious, but unsound:  
Sooner that hero's *sword* the world had quell'd,  
Than *reason*, his ambition. Man *must* soar.  
An obstinate activity within,  
An insuppressive spring, will toss him up  
In spite of *fortune*'s load. Not kings alone,  
Each villager has his ambition too;  
No *sultan* prouder than his fetter'd slave:  
Slaves build their little *Babylons* of straw,  
Echo the proud *Affyrian*, in their hearts,  
And cry,—“Behold the wonders of my might!”  
And why? Because *immortal* as their Lord;  
And souls immortal must for ever heave  
At something great; the glitter, or the gold;  
The praise of mortals, or the praise of Heaven.  
Nor absolutely vain is *human* praise,  
When *human* is supported by *divine*.  
I'll introduce LORENZO to Himself.      *Pleasure*

Pleasure and pride (bad masters!) share our hearts.  
 As love of pleasure is ordain'd to guard  
 And feed our bodies, and extend our race ;  
 The love of praise is planted to protect  
 And propagate the glories of the mind.  
 What is it, but the love of praise, inspires,  
 Matures, refines, embellishes, exalts,  
 Earth's happiness ? From that, the delicate,  
 The grand, the marvellous, of civil life.  
 Want and convenience, under-workers, lay  
 The basis, on which love of glory builds.  
 Nor is thy life, O virtue ! less in debt  
 To praise, thy secret-stimulating friend.  
 Were men not proud, what merit should we miss ?  
 Pride made the virtues of the Pagan world.  
 Praise is the salt that seasons right to man,  
 And whets his appetite for moral good.  
 Thirst of applause is virtue's second guard ;  
 Reason, her first ; but reason wants an aid ;  
 Our private reason is a flatterer ;  
 Thirst of applause calls public judgment in,  
 To poise our own, to keep an even scale,  
 And give endanger'd virtue fairer play.

Here a fifth proof arises, stronger still :  
 Why this so nice construction of our hearts ;  
 These delicate moralities of sense ;  
 This constitutional reserve of aid  
 To succour virtue, when our reason fails ;  
 If virtue, kept alive by care and toil,

And

And, oft, the mark of injuries on earth,  
When labour'd to maturity, (its bill  
Of disciplines, and pains, unpaid) must die?  
Why freighted-rich, to dash against a rock?  
Were man to perish when most fit to live,  
O how mis-spent were all these stratagems,  
By skill divine inwoven in our frame!  
Where are Heav'n's holiness and mercy fled?  
Laughs Heav'n, at once, at *virtue*, and at *man*?  
If not, why *that* discourag'd, *this* destroy'd?

Thus far *ambition*. What says *avarice*?  
This *her* chief maxim, which has long been *thine*.  
“ The wife and wealthy are the same.”—I grant it.  
To store up treasure, with incessant toil,  
*This* is man's province, *this* his highest praise.  
To this great end keen *instinct* stings him on.  
To guide that *instinct*, *reason!* is thy charge;  
'Tis *thine* to tell us where *true* treasure lies:  
But, reason failing to discharge her trust,  
Or to the deaf discharging it in vain,  
A blunder follows; and blind *industry*,  
Gall'd by the spur, but stranger to the course,  
(The course where stakes of more than gold are won)  
O'er-loading, with the cares of distant age,  
The jaded spirits of the *present* hour,  
Provides for an *eternity* below.

“ Thou shalt not covet,” is a wise command;  
But bounded to the wealth the sun surveys:  
Look farther, the command stands quite revers'd,

And

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And *au'rice* is a virtue most divine,  
Is *faith* a refuge for our *happiness*?  
Most sure : and is it not for *reason* too ?  
Nothing *this* world unriddles, but the *next*.  
Whence inextinguishable thirst of gain ?  
From inextinguishable life in man :  
Man, if not meant, by *worth*, to reach the *skies*,  
Had wanted wing to fly so far in *guilt*.  
*Sour grapes*, I grant, *ambition*, *avarice* :  
Yet still their root is *immortality*.  
These its wild growths so bitter, and so base,  
(Pain, and reproach !) *religion* can reclaim,  
Refine, exalt, throw down their *pois'nous* lee,  
And make them sparkle in the bowl of *bliss*.

See, the *third witness* laughs at *bliss* remote,  
And falsely promises an *Eden* here :  
Truth she shall speak for once, tho' prone to *lye*,  
A common cheat, and *Pleasure* is her name.  
To pleasure never was LORENZO deaf ;  
Then hear her now, now *first* thy *real friend*.

Since nature made us not more fond than *proud*  
Of *happiness* (whence hypocrites in *joy* !)  
Makers of mirth ! artificers of smiles !)  
Why should the *joy* most poignant *sense* affords,  
Burn us with blushes, and rebuke our pride ?—  
Those heav'n-born blushes tell us man *descends*,  
Ev'n in the zenith of his *earthly* *bliss* :  
Should *reason* take her infidel repose,  
This honest *instinct* speaks our lineage high ;

This

This instinct calls on darkness to conceal  
Our rapturous relation to the stalls.  
Our glory covers us with noble shame,  
And he that's unconfounded, is unmann'd.  
The man that blushes, is not quite a brute.  
Thus far with thee, LORENZO! will I close,  
*Pleasure is good*, and man for pleasure made;  
But pleasure full of glory, as of joy;  
Pleasure, which neither blushes, nor expires.

The witnesses are heard; the cause is o'er;  
Let conscience file the sentence in her court,  
Dearer than *deeds* that half a realm convey;  
Thus, seal'd by truth, th' authentic record runs.

" Know, All; know, infidels—unapt to know!  
" 'Tis immortality your nature solves;  
" 'Tis immortality decyphers man,  
" And opens all the myst'ries of his make.  
" Without it, half his *instincts* are a riddle;  
" Without it, all his *virtues* are a dream.  
" His very *crimes* attest his dignity;  
" His fateless thirst of *pleasure*, *gold*, and *fame*,  
" Declares him born for blessings infinite:  
" What less than infinite, makes un-absurd  
" *Passions*, which *all* on earth but more inflames?  
" Fierce passions, so mis-measur'd to *this* scene,  
" Stretcht out, like eagles wings, beyond our nest,  
" Far, far beyond the worth of all below,  
" For *earth* too large, presage a nobler flight,  
" And evidence our title to the *skies*."

Ye

Ye gentle theologues, of calmer kind !  
 Whose constitution dictates to your pen,  
 Who, cold yourselves, think ardor comes from hell !  
 Think not our passions from *corruption* sprung,  
 Tho' to corruption now they lend their wings ;  
*That* is their *mistress*, not their *mother*. All  
 (And justly) *reason* deem divine : I see,  
 I feel a grandeur in the *passions* too,  
 Which speaks their high descent, and glorious end ;  
 Which speaks them rays of an eternal fire.  
 In paradise itself they burnt as strong,  
 Ere ADAM fell ; tho' wiser in their aim.  
 Like the proud *Eastern*, struck by providence,  
 What tho' our *passions* are run mad, and stoop,  
 With low, terrestrial appetite, to graze  
 On trash, on toys, dethron'd from high desire ?  
 Yet still, thro' their disgrace, no feeble ray  
 Of greatness shines, and tells us whence they fell :  
 But *these* (like that fall'n monarch when reclaim'd)  
 When *reason* moderates the rein aright,  
 Shall re-ascend, remount their former sphere,  
 Where once they soar'd illustrious ; ere seduc'd  
 By wanton EVE's debauch, to stroll on earth,  
 And set the sublunary world on fire.

But grant their phrensy lasts ; their phrensy fails  
 To disappoint one providential end,  
 For which Heav'n blew up ardor in our hearts :  
 Were *reason* silent, boundless *passion* speaks  
 A future scene of boundless *objects* too,

And

And brings glad tidings of eternal day.  
*Eternal* day ! 'tis that enlightens All ;  
 And All, by that enlighten'd, proves it *sure*.  
 Consider man as an *immortal* being,  
 Intelligible All ; and All is great ;  
 A crystalline transparency prevails,  
 And strikes full lustre thro' the human sphere :  
 Consider man as *mortal*, All is dark,  
 And wretched ; *reason* weeps at the survey.

The learn'd LORENZO cries, " And let her weep,  
 " Weak, modern reason : *antient* times were wise.  
 " Authority, that venerable guide,  
 " Stands on my part ; the fam'd *Athenian* porch  
 " (And who for wisdom so renown'd as They ?)  
 " Deny'd this immortality to man."  
 I grant it ; but affirm, they *prov'd* it too.  
 A riddle this !—Have patience, I'll explain.

What noble vanities, what moral flights,  
 Glitt'ring thro' their romantic wisdom's page,  
 Make us, at once, despise them, and admire !  
 Fable is flat to these high-season'd fires ;  
 They leave th' extravagance of song below.  
 " Flesh shall not feel ; or, feeling, shall enjoy  
 " The dagger, or the rack ; to them, alike  
 " A bed of roses, or the burning bull."  
 In men exploding all beyond the grave,  
 Strange doctrine, this ! As *doctrine*, it was strange ;  
 But not, as *prophecy* ; for such it prov'd,  
 And, to their own amazement, was fulfill'd :

*They*

They feign'd a firmness *Christians* need not feign.  
 The *Christian* truly triumph'd in the flame :  
 The *stoic* law, in double wonder lost,  
 Wonder at Them, and wonder at Himself,  
 To find the bold adventures of his thought  
*Not bold*, and that he strove to lye in vain.

Whence, then, those thoughts? those tow'ring  
 thoughts, that flew

Such monstrous heights?—From *instinct*, and from  
 The glorious *instinct* of a deathless soul, [pride.  
 Confus'dly conscious of her dignity,  
 Suggested truths they could not understand.  
 In *lust*'s dominion, and in *passion*'s storm,  
 Truth's system broken, scatter'd fragments lay,  
 As light in chaos, glimm'ring thro' the gloom :  
 Smit with the pomp of lofty sentiments,  
 Pleas'd *pride* proclaim'd, what *reason* disbeliefv'd.  
*Pride*, like the *Delphic* priestess, with a swell,  
 Rav'd nonsense, destin'd to be *future* sense,  
 When life *immortal*, in full day, should shine ;  
 And death's dark *shadows* fly the gospel sun.  
*They spoke*, what nothing but *immortal* souls  
 Could speak ; and thus the truth they question'd,  
 Can then *absurdities*, as well as *crimes*, [prov'd.  
 Speak man *immortal*? All things speak him so.  
 Much has been urg'd; and dost thou call for more?  
 Call ; and with endless questions be distract,  
 All unresolvable, if *earth* is All.

“ Why

" Why life, a moment; infinite, desire?  
" Our wish, eternity? our home, the grave?  
" Heav'n's *promise* dormant lies in human *hope*.  
" Who *wishes* life immortal, *proves* it too.  
" Why happiness pursu'd, tho' never found?  
" Man's thirst of happiness declares *It is*  
" (For nature never gravitates to nought);  
" That thirst unquench'd declares *It is not Here*.  
" My LUCIA, thy CLARISSA, call to thought;  
" Why *cordial friendship* riveted so deep,  
" As hearts to pierce at first, at parting, rend,  
" If friend, and friendship, vanish in an hour?  
" Is not this torment in the mask of joy?  
" Why by *reflection* marr'd the joys of *sense*?  
" Why *past*, and *future*, preying on our hearts,  
" And putting all our *present* joys to death?  
" Why labours *reason*? *Instinct* were as well;  
" *Instinct*, far better; what can *chuse*, can *err*:  
" O how *infallible* the thoughtless brute!  
" 'Twere well his *holiness* were half as sure.  
" *Reason* with *inclination*, why at war?  
" Why *sense* of *guilt*? why *conscience* up in arms?"

Conscience of guilt, is prophecy of pain,  
And bosom-counsel to decline the blow.  
Reason with inclination ne'er had jarr'd,  
If nothing future paid forbearance here.  
Thus on—these, and a thousand pleas uncall'd,  
All *promise*, some *ensure*, a second scene;  
Which, were it *doubtful*, would be dearer far

Than all things else most *certain*; were it *false*,  
 What *truth* on earth so precious as the *lye*?  
*This* world it gives us, let what will ensue;  
 This world it gives, in that high cordial, *hope*:  
 The future of the present is the soul:  
 How *this* life groans, when sever'd from the *next*!  
 Poor, mutilated wretch, that disbelieves!  
 By dark distrust his being cut in two,  
 In both parts perishes; *life* void of joy,  
 Sad prelude of *eternity* in pain!

Couldst thou persuade me, the next life could fail  
 Our ardent wishes; how should I pour out  
 My bleeding heart in anguish, *new*, as deep!  
 Oh! with what thoughts, thy *hope*, and my *despair*,  
*Abhor*'d ANNIHILATION! blasts the soul,  
 And wide-extends the bounds of human woe!  
 Could I believe LORENZO's system true,  
 In *this* black channel would my ravings run.

“Grief from the *future* borrow'd peace, ere-while,  
 “The *future* vanisht! and the present *pain'd*!  
 “Strange import of unprecedented ill!  
 “Fall, how profound! like LUCIFER's, the fall!  
 “Unequal fate! his fall, without his guilt!  
 “From where fond *hope* built her pavilion high,  
 “The gods among, hurl'd headlong, hurl'd at once  
 “To night! to *nothing*! darker still than night.  
 “If 'twas a dream, why wake me, my worst foe,  
 “LORENZO! boastful of the name of friend!  
 “O for delusion! O for error still!

" Could vengeance strike much stronger than to  
 " A thinking being in a world like this, [plant  
 " Not over-rich before, now beggar'd quite;  
 " More curst than at the fall?—The sun goes out!  
 " The thorns shoot up! What thorns in ev'ry  
     thought!  
 " Why sense of better? It imbibers worse.  
 " Why sense? why life? if but to sigh, then sink  
 " To what I was! twice nothing! and much woe!  
 " Woe, from Heav'n's bounties! woe, from what  
     was wont  
 " To flatter most, high *intellectual powers*.  
     " Thought, virtue, knowledge! blessings, by thy  
         scheme,  
 " All poison'd into pains. First, *knowledge*, once  
 " My soul's ambition, now her greatest dread.  
 " To know myself, true wisdom?—No, to shun  
 " That shocking science. Parent of despair!  
 " Avert thy mirror: if I see, I die.  
     " Know my Creator? climb his blest abode  
 " By painful speculation, pierce the veil,  
 " Dive in his nature, read his attributes,  
 " And gaze in admiration—on a foe,  
 " Obtruding life, with-holding happiness!  
 " From the full rivers that surround his throne,  
 " Not letting fall one drop of joy on man;  
 " Man gasping for one drop, that he might cease  
 " To curse his birth, nor envy *reptiles* more!  
 " Ye fable clouds! ye darkest shades of night!

" Hide

" Hide Him, for ever hide Him, from my thought,  
 " Once all my comfort; source, and soul of joy!  
 " Now leagu'd with furies, and with \* *thee*, against  
     me.  
 " Know his achievements? study his renown!  
 " Contemplate this amazing universe,  
 " Dropt from his hand, with miracles replete!  
 " For what? 'Mid miracles of nobler name,  
 " To find one miracle of *misery*!  
 " To find the being, which alone can *know*  
 " And *praise* his works, a blemish on his praise?  
 " Thro' nature's ample range, in thought, to  
     stroll,  
 ¶ " And start at *man*, the *single* mourner there,  
 " Breathing high hope! chain'd down to pangs,  
     and death!  
 " Knowing is suff'ring: and shall *virtue* share  
 " The sigh of *knowlege*? Virtue shares the sigh.  
 " By straining up the steep of *excellent*,  
 " By battles fought, and, from *temptation*, won  
 " What gains she, but the pang of seeing worth,  
 " Angelic worth, soon shuffled in the dark  
 " With ev'ry vice, and swept to *brutal* dust?  
 " Merit is madness; virtue is a crime;  
 " A crime to *reason*, if it costs us pain  
 " Unpaid: What pain, amidst a thousand more,  
 " To think the most *abandon'd*, after days  
 " Of triumph o'er their betters, find in death  
 " As soft a pillow, nor make *fouler* clay!

\* Lorenzo.

" Duty!

"Duty, Religion!—These, our duty done,  
"Imply reward.—Religion is mistake.  
"Duty!—there's none, but to repel the cheat.  
"Ye cheats! away! ye daughters of my pride!  
"Who feign yourselves the fav'rites of the skies?  
"Ye tow'ring hopes! abortive energies!  
"That toss, and struggle, in my lying breast,  
"To scale the skies, and build presumptions there,  
"As I were heir of an eternity.  
"Vain, vain ambitions! trouble me no more.  
"Why travel far in quest of sure defeat?  
"As bounded as my being, be my wish.  
"All is inverted, *wisdom* is a fool.  
"Sense! take the rein; blind *passion!* drive us on;  
"And, *ignorance!* befriend us on our way;  
"Ye new, but truest patrons of our peace!  
"Yes; give the *pulse* full empire; live the *brute*,  
"Since, as the brute, we die. The sum of man,  
"Of godlike man! to *revel*, and to rot.  
"But not on equal terms with other brutes:  
"Their revels a more poignant relish yield,  
"And safer too; they never poisons chuse. [meals,  
"Instinct, than *Reason*, makes more wholsome  
"And sends all-marring murmur far away.  
"For *sensual* life they best philosophize;  
"Theirs, that serene, the sages sought in vain;  
"Tis *man* alone expostulates with Heaven;  
"His, all the *pow'r*, and all the *cause*, to mourn.  
"Shall *human* eyes alone dissolve in tears?"

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" And bleed, in anguish, none but *human* hearts?  
 " The wide-stretcht realm of *intellectual woe*,  
 " Surpassing *sensual* far, is all our own,  
 " In life so fatally distinguisht, why  
 " Cast in one lot, confounded, lumpt, in *death*?  
 " Ere yet in being, was mankind in guilt?  
 " Why thunder'd this peculiar *clause* against us,  
 " All-mortal, and all-wretched!—Have the skies  
 " Reasons of state, their subjects may not scan,  
 " Nor humbly reason, when they sorely sigh?  
 " All-mortal, and all-wretched!—'Tis too much!  
 " Unparallel'd in nature: 'Tis too much  
 " On being *unrequested* at Thy hands,  
 " OMNIPOTENT! for I see nought but *power*.  
 " And why see that? Why thought? To toil,  
     and eat,    [thought.  
 " Then make our bed in darkness, needs no  
 " What superfluities are *reas'ning* souls!  
 " Oh give eternity! or thought destroy.  
 " But without thought our curse were half-unfelt;  
 " Its blunted edge would spare the throbbing  
     heart,  
 " And, therefore, 'tis bestow'd. I thank thee,  
 " For aiding *life's* too small calamities, [reason!  
 " And giving being to the dread of *death*.  
 " Such are thy bounties!—Was it then too much  
 " For me, to trespass on the brutal rights?  
 " Too much for *Heav'n* to make one emmet more?  
 " Too much for *chaos* to permit my mass

" A longer stay with essences unwrought,  
" Unfashion'd, untormented into man?  
" Wretched preferment to this round of painst!  
" Wretched capacity of phrensy, thought!  
" Wretched capacity of dying, life!  
" Life, thought, worth, wisdom, all (O foul revolt!)  
" Once friends to peace, gone over to the foe.  
" Death, then, has chang'd its nature too:  
    O death!  
" Come to my bosom, thou best gift of Heaven!  
" Best friend of man! since man is man no more.  
" Why in this thorny Wilderness so long,  
" Since there's no promis'd land's ambrosial bower,  
" To pay me with its honey for my stings?  
" If needful to the selfish schemes of Heaven  
" To sting us sore, why mockt our misery?  
" Why this so sumptuous insult o'er our heads?  
" Why this illustrious canopy display'd?  
" Why so magnificently lodg'd despair?  
" At stated periods, sure-returning, roll  
" These glorious orbs, that mortals may compute  
" Their length of labours, and of pain's; nor lose  
" Their misery's full measure? — Smiles with  
    flowers,  
" And fruits, promiscuous, ever-teeming earth,  
" That man may languish in luxurious scenes,  
" And in an *Eden* mourn his wither'd joys?  
" Claim earth and skies man's admiration, due  
" For such delights! Blest animals! too wise

“ To wonder ; and too happy to complain !  
“ Our doom decreed demands a mournful scene :  
“ Why not a dungeon dark, for the condemn'd ?  
“ Why not the dragon's subterranean den,  
“ For man to howl in ? Why not his abode  
“ Of the same dismal colour with his fate ?  
“ A Thebes, a Babylon, at vast expence  
“ Of time, toil, treasure, art, for owls and adders,  
“ As congruous, as, for man, this lofty dome,  
“ Which prompts proud thought, and kindles  
high desire ;  
“ If, from her humble chamber in the dust,  
“ While proud thought swells, and high desire  
inflames,  
“ The poor worm calls us for her inmates there ;  
“ And, round us, death's inexorable hand,  
“ Draws the dark curtain close ; undrawn no more.  
“ Undrawn no more !—Behind the cloud of death,  
“ Once, I beheld a sun ; a sun which gilt  
“ That sable cloud, and turn'd it all to gold :  
“ How the grave's alter'd ! Fathomless, as hell !  
“ A real hell to those who dreamt of heaven.  
“ ANNIHILATION ! How it yawns before me !  
“ Next moment I may drop from thought, from  
“ The privilege of angels, and of worms, [sense,  
“ An outcast from existence ! And this spirit,  
“ This all-pervading, this all-conscious soul,  
“ This particle of energy divine,  
“ Which travels nature, flies from star to star,  
“ And

" And visits gods, and emulates their powers,  
" For ever is extinguish'd. Horror ! death !  
" Death of that death I fearless once survey'd !—  
" When horror universal shall descend,  
" And heav'n's dark concave urn all human race,  
" On that enormous, unrefunding tomb,  
" How just this verse ! this monumental sigh !  
*Beneath the lumber of demolish'd worlds,  
Deep in the rubbish of the gen'ral wreck,  
Swept ignominious to the common mass  
Of matter, never dignify'd with life,  
Here lie proud rationals ; the sons of heaven !  
The lords of earth ! the property of worms !  
Beings of yesterday, and no to-morrow !  
Who liv'd in terror, and in pangs expir'd !  
All gone to rot in chaos ; or, to make  
Their happy transit into blocks or brutes,  
Nor longer fully their CREATOR's name.*

LORENZO ! hear, pause, ponder, and pronounce.  
Just is this history ? If such is man,  
Mankind's historian, tho' divine, might weep.  
And dares LORENZO smile ?—I know thee proud ;  
For once let pride befriend thee : pride looks pale  
At such a scene, and sighs for something more.  
Amid thy boasts, presumptions, and displays,  
And art thou then a shadow ? Less than shade ?  
A nothing ? Less than nothing ? To have been,  
And not to be, is lower than unborn.  
Art thou ambitious ? Why then make the worm

Thine equal? Runs thy taste of *pleasure* high?  
 Why patronize sure death of ev'ry joy?  
 Charm *riches*? Why chuse begg'ry in the grave,  
 Of ev'ry hope a bankrupt! and for ever?  
*Ambition, pleasure, avarice,* persuade thee  
 To make that world of glory, rapture, wealth,  
 They \* lately prov'd, thy soul's supreme desire.

What art thou made of? rather, how unmade?  
 Great *nature's* master-appetite destroy'd!  
 Is endless life, and happiness, despis'd?  
 Or both wilfit, *bere*, where neither can be found?  
 Such man's perverse, eternal war with heaven!  
 Dailest thou perfid? And is there neught on earth,  
 But a long train of transitory forms,  
 Rising, and breaking, millions in an hour?  
 Bubbles of a fantastic deity, blown up  
 In sport, and then in cruelty destroy'd?  
 Oh! for what crime, unmerciful LORENZO!  
 Destroys thy scheme the *whole* of human race?  
 Kind is fell LUCIFER, compar'd to thee:  
 Oh! spare this *waste* of being half-divine;  
 And vindicate th' *economy* of Heaven.

Heav'n is all love; all joy in giving joy:  
 It never had created, but to *bless*:  
 And shall it, then, strike off the list of life,  
 A being blest, or worthy so to be?  
 Heav'n starts at an *annihilating* God.

Is that, all *nature* starts at, thy desire?

\* In the Sixth Night.

Art such a clod to wish thyself *all* clay ?  
What is that dreadful wish ?—The dying groan  
Of *nature*, murde'r'd by the blackest guilt.  
What deadly poison has thy nature drank ?  
To nature undebaught no shock so great ;  
Nature's first wish is *endless happiness* ;  
*Annihilation* is an after-thought,  
A monstrous wish, unborn till virtue dies.  
And, oh ! what depth of horror lies inclos'd !  
For non-existence no man ever wisht,  
But, first, he wisht the DEITY destroy'd.

If so ; what words are dark enough to draw  
Thy picture true ? The darkest are too fair,  
Beneath what baleful planet, in what hour  
Of desperation, by what fury's aid,  
In what infernal posture of the soul,  
All hell invited, and all hell in joy  
At such a birth, a birth so near of kin,  
Did thy foul *fancy* whelp so black a scheme  
Of hopes abortive, faculties half-blown,  
And deities begun, reduc'd to dust ?

There's nought (thou sayst) but one eternal flux  
Of feeble essences, tumultuous driven  
Thro' time's rough billows into night's abyss.  
Say, in this rapid tide of human ruin,  
Is there no *rock*, on which man's tossing thought  
Can rest from terror, dare his fate survey,  
And boldly think it *something* to be born ?  
Amid such hourly wrecks of Being fair,

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Is there no central, all-sustaining base,  
All-realizing, all-connecting Power,  
Which, as it call'd forth all things, can recall,  
And force destruction to refund her spoil?  
Command the grave restore her taken prey?  
Bid death's dark vale its human harvest yield,  
And earth, and ocean, pay their debt of man,  
True to the grand deposit trusted there?  
Is there no potentate, whose out-stretcht arm,  
When rip'ning time calls forth th' appointed hour,  
Pluckt from foul *devastation*'s famisht maw,  
Binds present, past, and future, to his throne?  
His throne, how glorious, thus divinely grac'd,  
By germinating beings clust'ring round!  
A garland worthy the Divinity!  
A throne, by Heav'n's omnipotence in smiles,  
Built (like a *Pharos* tow'ring in the waves)  
Amidst immense effusions of his love!  
An ocean of communicated bliss!  
An all-prolific, all-preserving GOD!  
*This* were a God indeed.—And such is Man,  
As here presum'd: he rises from his fall.  
Thinkst thou Omnipotence a naked root,  
Each blossom fair of DEITY destroy'd?  
Nothing is dead; nay, nothing sleeps; each soul,  
That ever animated human clay,  
Now wakes; is on the wing: and where, O where,  
Will the swarm sett'e?—When the trumpet's call,  
As sounding brass, collects us, round heav'n's  
throne

Con-

Conglob'd, we bask in everlasting day,  
(Paternal splendor !) and adhere for ever.  
Had not the soul this *outlet* to the skies,  
In this vast vessel of the universe,  
How should we gasp, as in an empty void !  
How in the pangs of famish'd *hope* expire ! [thine !

How bright *my* prospect shines ! how gloomy  
A trembling world ! and a devouring *God* !  
*Earth*, but the shambles of Omnipotence !  
*Heav'n*'s face all stain'd with causeless massacres  
Of countless millions, born to feel the pang  
Of being *lost*. *LORENZO* ! can it be ?  
*This* bids us shudder at the thoughts of *life*.  
Who would be born to such a phantom world,  
Where nought substantial, but our misery ?  
Where joy (if joy) but heightens our distress,  
So soon to perish, and revive no more ?  
The greater *such* a joy, the *more* it pains.  
A world, so far from *great* (and yet how great)  
It shines to thee !) there's nothing *real* in it ;  
*Being*, a shadow ! *consciousness*, a dream !  
A dream, how dreadful ! universal blank  
Before it, and behind ! poor man, a spark  
From non-existence struck by wrath divine,  
Glitt'ring a moment, nor that moment sure,  
'Mid~~st~~ upper, nether, and surrounding *night*,  
His sad, sure, sudden, and eternal tomb !  
LORENZO ! dost thou *feel* these arguments ?

Or is there nought but *vengeance* can be felt?  
 How hast thou dar'd the DEITY dethrone?  
 How dar'd *indict* him of a world like this?  
 If such the world, creation was a crime;  
 For what is crime, but cause of misery?  
 Retract, blasphemer! and unriddle *this*,  
 Of endless arguments, *above*, *below*,  
*Without* us, and *within*, the short result—  
 “*IF man's immortal, there's a GOD in heaven.*”

But wherefore such redundancy? such waste  
 Of argument? One sets *my soul* at rest;  
 One obvious, and at hand, and, Oh—at *heart*.  
 So just the skies, PHILANDER’s life so pain’d,  
 His heart so pure; *that*, or *succeeding* scenes  
 Have palms to give, or ne’er had he been born.

“*What an old tale is this!*” LORENZO cries.—  
 I grant this argument is old; but truth  
 No years impair; and had not this been true,  
 Thou never hadst despis’d it for its age.  
*Truth* is immortal as thy soul; and *fable*  
 As fleeting as thy joys: Be wise, nor make  
*Heav’n’s highest blessing, vengeance;* O be wise!  
 Nor make a curse of *immortality*.

Say, know’st thou what *it* is, or what *thou* art?  
 Know’st thou th’ *importance* of a soul immortal?  
 Behold this midnight glory! world’s on worlds!  
 Amazing pomp! redouble this amaze;  
 Ten thousand add; add twice ten thousand more;  
 Then—

Then weigh the whole; one soul outweighs them  
And calls th' astonishing magnificence [all;  
Of unintelligent creation poor.

For this, believe not me; no man believe;  
Trust not in words, but deeds; and deeds no less  
Than those of the SUPREME; nor His, a few;  
Consult them all; consulted, all proclaim  
Thy soul's importance: tremble at thyself;  
For whom Omnipotence has wak'd so long;  
Has wak'd, and work'd, for ages; from the birth  
Of nature to this unbelieveing hour.

In this small province of his vast domain  
(All nature bow, while I pronounce his name!)  
What has GOD done, and not for this sole end,  
To rescue souls from death? The soul's high price  
Is writ in all the conduct of the skies.  
The soul's high price is the creation's key,  
Unlocks its mysteries, and naked lays  
The genuine cause of ev'ry deed divine:  
That, is the chain of ages, which maintains  
Their obvious correspondence, and unites  
Most distant periods in one blest design:  
That, is the mighty hinge, on which have turn'd  
All revolutions, whether we regard  
The nat'r'l, civ'l, or religi'ous, world;  
The former two, but servants to the third:  
To that their duty done, they both expire,  
Their mas' new-cast, forgot their deeds rebornd;  
And angels ask, "Where once they shone so fair?"

To lift us from *this* abject, to sublime;  
 This flux, to permanent; this dark, to day;  
 This foul, to pure; this turbid, to serene;  
 This mean, to mighty!—for *this* glorious end  
 Th' ALMIGHTY, rising, his long sabbath broke;  
 The world was made; was ruin'd; was restor'd;  
 Laws from the *skies* were publish'd; were repeal'd;  
 On *earth* kings, kingdoms, rose; kings, kingdoms,  
 Fam'd sages lighted up the *Pagan* world; [fell;  
 Prophets from *Sion* darted a keen glance.  
 Thro' distant age; saints travell'd; martyrs bled;  
 By wonders sacred nature stood controul'd;  
 The living were translated; dead were rais'd;  
 Angels, and more than angels, came from heaven;  
 And, oh! for *this*, descended lower still;  
 Gilt was hell's gloom; astonisht at his guest,  
 For one short moment LUCIFER ador'd:  
 LORENZO! and wilt thou do less?—For *this*,  
 That *ballow'd page*, fools scoff at, was inspir'd,  
 Of all these truths thrice-venerable code!  
*Deists!* perform your quarantine; and then,  
 Fall prostrate, ere you touch it, lest you die.

Nor less intensely bent *infernal* powers  
 To mar, than those of *light*, *this* end to gain.  
 O what a scene is here!—LORENZO! wake!  
 Rise to the thought; exert, expand, thy soul.  
 To take the vast idea: it denies  
 All *else* the name of great. Two warring worlds!  
 Not *Europe* against *Afric*; warring worlds,

Of

Of more than mortal ! mounted on the wing !  
On ardent wings of energy, and zeal,  
High-hov'ring o'er this little brand of strife !  
This sublunary ball—But strife, for what ?  
In their own cause conflicting ? no ; in thine,  
In man's. His *single* int'rest blows the flame ;  
His the sole stake ; his fate the trumpet sounds,  
Which kindles war immortal. How it burns !  
Tumultuous swarms of deities in arms !  
Force, force opposing, till the waves run high,  
And tempest nature's universal sphere.  
Such opposites eternal, stedfast, stern,  
Such foes implacable, are *good*, and *ill* ; [them.  
Yet man, vain man, would mediate peace between

Think not this fiction. "There was war in  
heaven." [hung,

From heav'n's high crystal mountain, where it  
Th' ALMIGHTY's outstretcht arm took down his  
And shot his indignation at the deep : [bow ;  
Re-thunder'd hell, and darted all her fires.—  
And seems the stake of little moment still ?  
And slumbers man, who singly caus'd the storm ?  
He sleeps.—And art thou shockt at *mysteries* ?  
The greatest, thou. How dreadful to reflect,  
What ardor, care, and counsel, *mortals* cause  
In breasts divine ! how little in their own !

Where-e'er I turn, how new proofs pour upon me !  
How happily this wond'rous view supports  
My former argument ! how strongly strikes

Immortal

*Immortal life's full demonstration, here!*  
 Why this exertion? why this strange regard  
 From heav'n's Omnipotent indulg'd to man?—  
 Because, in man, the glorious, dreadful power,  
 Extremely to be pain'd, or blest, for ever.  
*Duration gives importance; swells the price.*  
 An angel, if a creature of a day,  
 What would he be? A trifle of no weight;  
 Or stand, or fall; no matter which; he's gone.  
*Because IMMORTAL, therefore is indulg'd*  
 This strange regard of deities to dust. [eyes:  
 Hence, Heav'n looks down on earth with all her  
 Hence, the soul's mighty moment in her sight:  
 Hence, ev'ry soul has partisans above,  
 And ev'ry thought a critic in the skies:  
 Hence, clay, vile clay! has angels for its guard,  
 And ev'ry guard a passion for his charge:  
 Hence, from all age, the cabinet divine  
 Has held high counsel o'er the fate of man.

Nor have the clouds those gracious counsels hid,  
 Angels undrew the curtain of the throne,  
 And PROVIDENCE came forth to meet mankind:  
 In various modes of emphasis, and awe,  
 He spoke his will, and trembling nature heard;  
 He spoke it loud, in thunder, and in storm.  
 Witness, thou *Sinai!* whose cloud-cover'd height,  
 And shaken bas'ts, own'd the present GOD:  
 Witness, ye *billows!* whose returning tide,  
 Breaking the chain that fasten'd it in air,

Swept

Swept Egypt, and her menaces, to hell :  
 Witness, ye flames ! th' Assyrian tyrant blew  
 To sev'nfold rage, as impotent, as strong :  
 And thou, earth ! witness, whose expanding jaws  
 Clos'd o'er \* presumption's sacrilegious sons :  
 Has not each element, in turn, subscrib'd  
 The soul's high price, and sworn it to the wise ?  
 Has not flame, ocean, æther, earthquake, strove  
 To strike this truth, thro' adamantine man ?  
 If not alladamant, LORENZO ! hear ;  
 All is delusion, nature is wrapt up,  
 In tensold night, from reason's keenest eye ;  
 There's no consistence, meaning, plan, or end,  
 In all beneath the sun, in all above,  
 (As far as man can penetrate) or Heaven  
 Is an immense, inestimable prize ;  
 Or all is nothing, or that prize is all.—  
 And shall each toy be still a match for heaven ?  
 And full equivalent for groans below ?  
 Who would not give a trifle to prevent  
 What he would give a thousand worlds to cure ?  
 LORENZO ! thou hast seen (if thine, to see)  
 All nature, and her God (by nature's course,  
 And nature's course controul'd) declare for me :  
 The skies above proclaim " Immortal man !"  
 And, " Man immortal !" all below resounds.  
 The world's a system of theology,  
 Read, by the greatest strangers to the schools :

\* Korab, &c.

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If honest, learn'd ; and sages o'er a plough.  
Is not, LORENZO ! then, impos'd on thee  
This hard alternative ; or, to renounce  
Thy reason, and thy sense ; or, to believe ?  
What then is unbelief ? 'Tis an exploit ;  
A strenuous enterprize : To gain it, man  
Must burst thro' ev'ry bar of common sense,  
Of common shame, magnanimously wrong ;  
And what rewards the sturdy combatant ?  
His prize, *repentance* ; *infamy*, his crown.

But wherefore, *infamy* ?—For want of *faith*,  
Down the steep precipice of *wrong* he slides ;  
There's nothing to support him in the *right*.  
*Faith in the future* wanting, is, at least  
In *embryo*, ev'ry weakness, ev'ry guilt ;  
And strong temptation ripens it to *birth*.  
If *this life's* gain invites him to the deed,  
Why not his country sold, his father slain ?  
'Tis virtue to pursue our good supreme ;  
And his supreme, his *only* good is *here*.  
*Ambition*, *av'rice*, by the wise disdain'd,  
Is perfect *wisdom*, while mankind are *fools*,  
And think a turf, or tomb-stone, covers all ;  
*These* find employment, and provide for *sense*  
A richer pasture, and a larger range ;  
And *sense* by right divine ascends the throne,  
When *virtue's* prize and prospect are no more ;  
*Virtue* no more we think the will of Heaven.  
Would Heav'n quite *beggar* virtue, if belov'd ?

"Has *virtue* charms?"—I grant her heav'nly  
But if un-portion'd, all will int'rest wed; [fair;  
Tho' *that* our admiration, *this* our choice.  
The virtues grow on *immortality*;  
That root destroy'd, they wither and expire.  
A DEITY believ'd, will nought avail;  
*Rewards* and *punishments* make GOD ador'd;  
And *hopes* and *fears* give conscience all her power.  
As in the dying parent dies the child,  
*Virtue*, with *immortality*, expires.  
Who tells me he denies his soul immortal,  
Whate'er his boast, has told me, *he's a knave*.  
His duty 'tis to love himself *alone*;  
Nor care tho' mankind perish, if he smiles.  
Who thinks ere-long the man shall *wholly* die,  
Is dead already; nought but *brute* survives.

And are there such?—Such candidates there are  
For *more* than death; for utter loss of being;  
Being, the basis of the DEITY!  
Ask you the *cause*?—The cause they will not tell;  
Nor need they: Oh the sorceries of *sense*!  
They work this transformation on the soul,  
Dismount her like the serpent at the Fall,  
Dismount her from her native wing (which soar'd  
Ere-while ethereal heights), and throw her down,  
To lick the dust, and *crawl*, in such a thought.

Is it in words to paint you? O ye fall'n!  
Fall'n from the wings of *reason*, and of *hope*!  
Erect in stature, prone in appetite!

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Patrons of pleasure, posling into pain !  
Lovers of argument, averse to sense !  
Boasters of liberty, fast-bound in chains !  
Lords of the wide creation, and the shame !  
More *senseless* than th' *irrationals* you scorn !  
More base than those you rule ! Than those you  
Far more *undine* ! O ye most infamous [pity,  
Of beings, from superior dignity !  
Deepest in woe from means of boundless bliss !  
Ye curst by blessings infinite ! Because  
Most highly favour'd, most profoundly lost !  
Ye motly mass of *contradictions* strong !  
And are you, too, convinc'd, your souls fly off  
In exhalation soft, and die in air,  
From the full flood of evidence *against* you ?  
In the coarse drudgeries and sinks of *sense*,  
Your souls have quite worn out the make of  
Heaven,

By vice new-cast, and creatures of your own :  
But tho' you can *deform*, you can't *destroy* ;  
To curse, not *uncreate*, is all your power.

LORENZO ! this black brotherhood renounce ;  
Renounce St. *Euremont*, and read St. *Paul*.  
Ere rapt by miracle, by *reason* wing'd,  
His mounting mind made long abode in heaven.  
*This is free-thinking*, unconfin'd to *parts*,  
To send the soul, on curious travel bent,  
Thro' all the provinces of human thought ;  
To dart her flight, thro' the whole sphere of man ;

Of

Of this vast universe to make the tour ;  
In each recess of space, and time, at home ;  
Familiar with their wonders ; diving deep ;  
And, like a prince of boundless int'rests, there,  
Still most ambitious of the most remote ;  
To look on truth unbroken, and intire ;  
Truth in the system, the full orb ; where truths,  
By truths enlighten'd, and sustain'd, afford  
An arch-like, strong foundation, to support  
Th' incumbent weight of absolute, complete  
*Conviction* ; here, the more we press, we stand  
More firm ; who most examine, most believe.  
*Parts*, like half-sentences, confound ; the whole  
Conveys the sense, and God is understood :  
Who not in fragments writes to human race :  
Read his whole volume, sceptic ! then reply.

This, this, is thinking free, a thought that grasps  
Beyond a grain, and looks beyond an hour.  
Turn up thine eye, survey this midnight scene ;  
What are earth's kingdoms, to yon boundless orbs,  
Of human souls, one day, the destin'd range ?  
And what yon boundless orbs, to godlike man ?  
Those num'rous worlds that throng the firmament,  
And ask more space in Heav'n, can roll at large  
In man's capacious thought, and still leave room  
For ampler orbs, for new creations, there.  
Can such a soul contract itself, to gripe  
A point of no dimension, of no weight ?

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It can ; it does : the world is such a point,  
And, of *that* point, how small a part enslaves ?

How small a part—of *nothing*, shall I say ?  
Why not ?—Friends, our chief treasure ! how they  
drop !

LUCIA, NARCISSA fair, PHILANDER, gone !

The grave, like fabled Cerberus, has op'd  
A triple mouth ; and, in an awful voice,  
Loud calls my soul, and utters all I sing.

How the world falls to pieces round about us,  
And leaves us in a ruin of our joy !

What says this *transportation* of my friends ?

It bids me love the place where now they dwell,  
And scorn this wretched spot, they leave so poor.  
Eternity's vast ocean lies before thee ;

There ; there, LORENZO ! thy CLARISSA sails.  
Give thy mind sea-room ; keep it wide of earth,  
That rock of souls immortal ; cut thy cord ;  
Weigh anchor ; spread thy sails ; call ev'ry wind ;  
Eye thy great pole-star ; make the land of life.

Two kinds of life has *double-natur'd* man,  
And two of death ; the last far more severe.  
Life animal is nurtur'd by the sun ;  
Thrives on his bounties, triumphs in his beams.  
Life rational subsists on higher food,  
Triumphant in His beams, who made the day.  
When we leave that sun, and are left by this,  
(The fate of all who die in stubborn guilt)  
"Tis utter darkness ; strictly double death.

We

We sink by no judicial stroke of Heaven,  
But nature's course; as sure as plumbets fall.  
Since GOD, or man, must alter, ere they meet,  
(Since light and darkness blend not in one sphere)  
'Tis manifest, LORENZO! who must change.

If, then, that double death should prove thy lot,  
Blame not the bowels of the DEITY:  
Man shall be blest, as far as man permits.  
Not man alone, all *rationals*, Heav'n arms  
With an illustrious, but tremendous, power  
To counter-act its own most gracious ends;  
And this, of strict necessity, not choice:  
*That pow'r deny'd, men, angels, were no more,*  
But passive engines, void of praise, or blame.  
A nature *rational* implies the power  
Of being blest, or wretched, as we please;  
Else idle *reason* would have nought to do;  
And he that would be barr'd capacity  
Of pain, courts incapacity of bliss.  
Heav'n *wills* our happiness, *allows* our doom;  
*Invites* us ardently, but not *compels*;  
Heav'n but *persuades*, almighty man *decrees*;  
Man is the maker of immortal fates.  
Man falls by man, if finally he falls;  
And fall he *must*, who learns from *death* alone,  
'The dreadful secret,—that he *lives* for ever.

Why *this* to Thee? Thee yet, perhaps, in doubt  
Of second life? But wherefore doubtful still?  
Eternal life is nature's ardent wish;

What

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What ardently we wish, we soon believe :  
Thy tardy faith declares that wish destroy'd :  
What has destroy'd it ?—Shall I tell thee, what ?  
When fear'd the future, 'tis no longer wisht ;  
And, when unwisht, we strive to disbelieve.  
“ Thus infidelity our guilt betrays.”  
Nor that the sole detection ! Blush, LORENZO !  
Blush for hypocrisy, if not for guilt.  
The future fear'd ? An infidel, and fear !  
Fear what ? a dream ? a fable ?—How thy dread,  
Unwilling evidence, and therefore strong,  
Affords my cause an undesign'd support !  
How disbelief affirms, what it denies !  
“ It, unawares, asserts immortal life.”—  
Surprising ! Infidelity turns out  
A creed, and a confession of our sins :  
Apostates, thus, are orthodox divines.

LORENZO ! with LORENZO clash no more ;  
Nor longer a transparent vizor wear.  
Think'st thou, RELIGION only has her mask ?  
Our infidels are Satan's hypocrites,  
Pretend the worst, and, at the bottom, fail.  
When visited by thought (thought will intrude),  
Like him they serve, they tremble, and believe.  
Is there hypocrisy so foul as this ?  
So fatal to the welfare of the world ?  
What detestation, what contempt, their due !  
And, if unpaid, be thank'd for their escape  
That christian candor they strive hard to scorn.

If

If not for that asylum, they might find  
A hell on earth ; nor 'scape a worse below.

With insolence, and impotence of thought,  
Instead of racking fancy, to refute,

Reform thy manners, and the truth enjoy.—

But shall I dare confess the dire result ?

Can thy proud reason brook so black a brand ?

From purer manners, to sublimer faith,

Is nature's unavoidable ascent ;

An honest Deist, where the gospel shines,

Matur'd to nobler, in the Christian ends.

When that blest change arrives, e'en cast aside

This song superfluous ; life immortal strikes

Conviction, in a flood of light divine.

A Christian dwells, like \* URIEL, in the sun ;

Meridian evidence puts doubt to flight ;

And ardent hope anticipates the skies.

Of that bright sun, LORENZO ! scale the sphere ;

'Tis easy ; it invites thee ; it descends

From heay'n to woe, and waft thee whence it

Read and revere the sacred page ; a page [came :

Where triumphs immortality ; a page

Which not the whole creation could produce ;

Which not the conflagration shall destroy ;

'Tis printed in the mind of gods for ever,

In nature's ruins not one letter lost.

In proud disdain of what e'en gods adore,

Dost smile ?—Poor wretch ! thy guardian angel

Angels, and men, assent to what I sing ; [weeps.

\* Milton.

Wilt

*Wits* smile, and thank me for my *midnight dream*,  
 How vicious hearts fume phrensy to the brain !  
*Parts* push us on to pride, and pride to shame ;  
*Pert infidelity* is *wit's cockade*,  
 To grace the brazen brow that braves the skies,  
 By *loss of being*, dreadfully secure.

*LORENZO* ! if thy doctrine wins the day,  
 And drives my dreams, defeated, from the field ;  
 If this is all, if earth a *final scene* ;  
 Take heed ; stand fast ; be sure to be a *knav*e ;  
 A knave in grain ! ne'er deviate to the right :  
 Shouldst thou be *good*—how infinite thy loss !  
*Guilt* only makes *annihilation* gain.

Blest scheme ! which life deprives of *comfort*, death  
 Of *hope* ; and which *VICE only*, recommends.  
 If so ; where, infidels ! your bait thrown out  
 To catch weak converts ? where your lofty boast  
 Of *zeal for virtue*, and of *love to man* ?  
*ANNIHILATION* ! I confess, in these.

What can *reclaim* you ? Dare I hope profound  
*Philosophers* the converts of a *song* ?  
 Yet know, its \* title flatters you, not me ;  
 Yours be the praise to make my title good ;  
 Mine, to bless Heav'n, and triumph in your praise.  
 But since so pestilential your disease,  
 Though sov'reign is the med'cine I prescribe,  
 As yet, I'll neither triumph, nor despair :  
 But hope, ere-long, my *midnight dream* will wake

\* The Infidel Reclaimed,

Your

Your hearts, and teach your *wisdom*—to be wise :  
For why should souls immortal, made for bliss,  
E'er wish (and wish in vain!) that souls could die?  
What ne'er can die, oh ! grant to *live*; and crown  
The wish, and aim, and labour of the skies ;  
*Increase*, and enter on the joys of Heaven :  
Thus shall my title pass a *sacred* seal,  
Receive an *imprimatur* from above,  
While angels shout—*An infidel reclaimed!*

To close, LORENZO ! spite of all my pains,  
Still seems it strange, that thou shouldst live *for ever* ?

Is it *less* strange, that thou shouldst live *at all* ?  
This is a miracle ; and *that* no more.  
Who gave beginning, can exclude an end.  
Deny thou *art* : then, doubt if thou *shalt be*.  
A miracle with miracles inclos'd,  
Is man : and starts his faith at what is *strange* ?  
What less than wonders, from the *Wonderful* ;  
What less than miracles, from *GOD*, can flow ?  
*Admit a GOD*—that mystery supreme !  
That Cause uncaus'd ! all other wonders cease ;  
Nothing is marvellous for *Him* to do :  
*Deny Him*—all is mystery besides ;  
Millions of mysteries ! *Each* darker far,  
Than *that* thy wisdom would, unwisely, shun.  
If *weak* thy faith, why chuse the harder side ?  
We nothing *know*, but what is marvellous ;  
Yet what is marvellous, we can't *believe*.

So weak our reason, and so great our GOD,  
 What most surprises in the sacred page,  
 Or full as strange, or stranger, must be true.  
*Faith* is not *reason's* labour, but repose.

To *faith*, and *virtue*, why so backward, man?  
 From hence:—the *present* strongly strikes us all;  
 The *future*, faintly: can we, then, be men?  
 If men, LORENZO! the *reverse* is right.  
*Reason* is man's peculiar; *sense*, the brute's.  
 The *present* is the scanty realm of *sense*;  
 The *future*, *reason's* empire unconfin'd;  
 On that expending all her godlike power,  
 She plans, provides, expatiates, triumphs, *there*;  
 There, builds her *blessings*; there, expects her *praise*;  
 And nothing asks of *fortune*, or of *men*.  
 And what is *reason*? Be she, thus, defin'd;  
 Reason is *upright stature* in the *soul*.  
 Oh! be a *man*;—and strive to be a *god*.

“ For what? (thou sayst): to damp the joys  
 of life?”

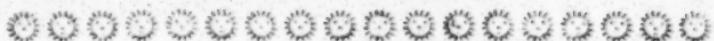
No; to give *heart* and *substance* to thy joys.  
 That tyrant, *hope*; mark, how she domineers;  
 She bids us quit realities, for dreams;  
 Safety, and peace, for hazard, and alarm;  
 That tyrant o'er the tyrants of the *soul*,  
 She bids *ambition* quit its taken prize,  
 Spurn the luxuriant branch on which it sits,  
 Tho' bearing crowns, to spring at *distant* game;  
 And plunge in toils, and dangers—for repose.

If

If *hope* precarious, and of things, when gain'd,  
Of little moment, and as little stay,  
Can sweeten toils and dangers into joys;  
What then, *that* hope, which nothing can defeat,  
Our leave unask'd? Rich hope of boundless bliss!  
Bliss, past man's pow'r to paint it; time's to close!

*This* hope is earth's most estimable prize:  
*This* is man's portion, while no more than man;  
*Hope*, of all passions, most befriends us here;  
Passions of prouder name befriend us less.  
*Joy* has her *tears*; and *transport* has her *death*:  
*Hope*, like a cordial, innocent, tho' strong,  
Man's heart, at once, *inspirits*, and *serenes*;  
Nor makes him pay his wisdom for his joys:  
'Tis all, our present state can *safely* bear,  
Health to the frame! and vigour to the mind!  
A joy attemper'd! a *chaos*'d delight!  
Like the fair summer-ev'ning, mild and sweet!  
'Tis man's full cup; his paradise below!  
A blest hereafter, *then*, or hop'd, or gain'd,  
Is all;—our *whole* of happiness: full proof,  
I chose no trivial or inglorious *theme*.  
And know, ye foes to song! (well-meaning men,  
Tho' quite forgotten \* half your *Bible*'s praise!)  
*Important truths*, in spite of *verse*, may please:  
*Grave* minds you praise; nor can you praise too  
If there is weight in an *ETERNITY*, [much:  
Let the *grave* listen;—and be *graver* still.

\* The poetical parts of it,



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## NIGHT the EIGHTH. VIRTUE'S APOLOGY:

O R,

*The MAN of the WORLD Answered.*

In which are Considered,

*The LOVE of This LIFE;*

*The AMBITION and PLEASURE, with the  
WIT and WISDOM, of the WORLD.*

---

**A**ND has all nature, then, espous'd my part?  
Have I brib'd heav'n, and earth, to plead  
against thee?  
And is thy soul *immortal?*—What remains?  
All, all, LORENZO!—Make *immortal, blest.*  
Unblest immortals!—What can shock us more?  
And yet LORENZO still affects *the world;*  
There, stows his treasure; thence, his title draws,  
*Man of the world!* (for such wouldst thou be call'd)  
And art thou proud of that inglorious style?  
Proud of reproach? for a reproach it *was,*  
In antient days; and CHRISTIAN,—in an age,  
When men were men, and not ashame'd of heaven,

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Fir'd their ambition, as it crown'd their joy.  
Sprinkled with dews from the *Castalian* fount,  
Fain would I re-baptize thee, and confer  
A purer spirit, and a nobler name.

Thy fond attachments fatal, and inflam'd,  
Point out my path, and dictate to my song :  
To thee, *the world how fair!* how strongly strikes  
*Ambition!* and gay *pleasure* stronger still !  
Thy triple bane ! the triple bolt, that lays  
Thy virtue dead ! be *these* my triple theme ;  
Nor shall thy *cuit*, or *wisdom*, be forgot.

Common the theme ; not so the song ; if she  
My song invokes, *URANIA*, deigns to smile.  
The charm that chains us to the world, her foe,  
If she dissolves, the *man of earth*, at once,  
Starts from his trance, and sighs for other scenes ;  
Scenes, where these sparks of night, these stars  
shall shine

Unnumber'd suns (for all things, as they *are*,  
The blest behold) ; and, in one glory, pour  
Their blended blaze on man's astonish'd sight ;  
A blaze,—the least illustrious object *there*.

*LORENZO!* since *eternal* is at hand,  
To swallow time's ambitions ; as the vast  
*Leviathan*, the bubbles vain, that ride  
High on the foaming billow ; what avail  
High titles, high descent, attainments high,  
If untaught'd our *biggest*? O *LORENZO!*  
What lofty thoughts, these elements above,

What tow'ring hopes, what fallies from the sun,  
 What grand surveys of destiny divine,  
 And pompous presage of unfathom'd fate,  
 Should roll in bosoms, where a spirit burns,  
 Bound for eternity ! in bosoms read  
 By *Him*, who foibles in archangels sees !  
 On human hearts *He* bends a jealous eye,  
 And marks, and in heav'n's register inrolls,  
 The rise, and progress, of each option there ;  
 Sacred to doomsday ! *That* the page unfolds,  
 And spreads us to the gaze of gods and men.

And what an option, O LORENZO ! thine ?  
 This world ! and this, unrivall'd by the skies !  
 A world, where lust of *pleasure*, *grandeur*, *gold*,  
 Three *demons* that divide its realms between them,  
 With strokes alternate buffet to and fro  
 Man's restless heart, their sport, their flying ball ;  
 Till, with the giddy circle, sick, and tir'd,  
 It pants for peace, and drops into despair.  
 Such is the world LORENZO sets above  
 That glorious *promise* angels were esteem'd  
 Too *mean* to bring ; a promise, their *Ador'd*  
 Descended to communicate, and pres' ,  
 By counsel, miracle, life, death, on man.  
 Such is the world LORENZO's wisdom wooes,  
 And on its thorny pillow seeks repose ;  
 A pillow, which, like opiates ill-prepar'd,  
 Intoxicates, but not composes ; fills  
 The visionary mind with gay chimeras,

All

All the wild trash of sleep, without the rest ;  
What unseign'd travel, and what dreams of joy !  
How frail, men, things ! how momentary, both !  
Fantastic chace, of shadows hunting shades !  
The gay, the *busy*, equal, tho' unlike ;  
Equal in wisdom, differently wise ! [wastes,  
Through flow'ry meadows, and through dreary  
One bustling, and one dancing, into death.  
There's not a day, but, to the man of thought,  
Betrays some secret, that throws new reproach  
On life, and makes him sick of seeing more.  
The scenes of *business* tell us—" What are men ;"  
The scenes of *pleasure*—" What is all beside :"  
*There*, others we despise ; and *here*, ourselves.  
Amid *disgust* eternal, dwells delight ?  
'Tis *approbation* strikes the string of joy.

What wondrous prize has kindled this career,  
Stuns with the din, and choaks us with the dust,  
On life's gay stage, one inch above the grave ?  
The *proud* run up and down in quest of eyes ;  
The *sensual*, in pursuit of something worse ;  
The *grave*, of gold ; the *politic*, of power ;  
And all, of other butterflies, as vain !  
As eddies draw things frivolous, and light,  
How is man's heart by *vanity* drawn in ;  
On the swift circle of returning toys, [ingulph'd,  
Whirl'd, straw-like, round and round, and then  
Where gay delusion darkens to despair !

"*This is a beaten track.*"—Is this a track  
Should *not* be beaten? Never beat enough,  
Till enough learnt the truths it would inspire.  
Shall truth be silent, because folly *frowns*?  
Turn the world's history; what find we there,  
But *fortune's* sports, or *nature's* cruel claims,  
Or *woman's* artifice, or *man's* revenge,  
And endless inhumanities on man?  
Fame's trumpet seldom sounds, but, like the knell,  
It brings bad tidings: how it hourly blows  
Man's misadventures round the list'ning world!  
Man is the tale of narrative old *Time*;  
Sad tale! which high as *paradise* begins;  
As if, the toil of travel to delude,  
From stage to stage, in his eternal round,  
The *Days*, his daughters, as they spin our hours  
On *Fortune's* wheel, where accident unthought  
Oft, in a moment, snaps life's strongest thread,  
Each, in her turn, some tragic story tells,  
With, now-and-then, a wretched farce between;  
And fills his chronicle with human woes.

Time's daughters, true as those of men, de-  
ceive us;  
Not one, but puts some cheat on all mankind:  
While in their *father's* bosom, not yet *ours*,  
They flatter our fond hopes; and promise much  
Of amiable; but hold *him* not o'er-wise,  
Who dares to trust them; and laugh round the  
At still-confiding, still-confounded, man, [year  
Con-

Confiding, tho' confounded ; hoping on,  
 Untaught by trial, unconvinc'd by proof,  
 And ever-looking for the never-seen.  
 Life to the last, like harden'd felons, lyes ;  
 Nor owns itself a cheat, till it expires.  
 Its little joys go out by one and one,  
 And leave poor man, at length, in perfect night ;  
 Night darker, than what, *now*, involves the pole.

O THOU, who dost permit these ills to fall,  
 For gracious ends, and wouldst, that man should  
 mourn !

O THOU, whose hands this goodly fabric fram'd,  
 Who know'st it best, and wouldst that man should  
 What is this sublunary world ? A vapour ; [know !  
 A vapour all it holds ; itself, a vapour ;  
 From the damp bed of Chaos, by thy beam  
 Exhal'd, ordain'd to swim its destin'd hour  
 In ambient air, then melt, and disappear.  
 Earth's days are number'd, nor remote her doom ;  
 As mortal, tho' less transient, than her sons ;  
 Yet they doat on her, as the world and they  
 Were both eternal, solid ; THOU, a dream.

They doat, on what ? *Immortal views* apart,  
 A region of outsides ! a land of shadows !  
 A fruitful field of flow'ry promises !  
 A wilderness of joys ! perplext with doubts,  
 And sharp with thorns ! A troubled ocean, spread  
 With bold adventurers, their *all* on board ;  
 No second hope, if here their fortune frowns :

Frown soon it *must*. Of various rates they fail,  
 Of enligns various; all alike in this,  
*All* restless, anxious; tost with hopes, and fears,  
 In calmest skies; obnoxious all to storm;  
 And stormy the most general blast of life:  
*All* bound for happiness; yet few provide  
 The chart of *knowledge*, pointing where it lies;  
 Or *virtue's* helm, to shape the course design'd:  
*All*, more or less, capricious fate lament,  
 Now lifted by the tide, and now resorb'd,  
 And farther from their wishes, than before:  
*All*, more or less, against each other dash,  
 To mutual hurt, by guits of passion driven,  
 And suff'ring more from folly, than from fate.

Ocean! Thou dreadful and tumultuous home  
 Of dangers, at eternal war with man!  
*Death's* capital, where most he domineers,  
 With all his chosen terrors frowning round,  
 (Tho' lately feasted high at \* Albion's cost)  
 Wide op'ning, and loud roaring still for more!  
 Too faithful mirror! how dost thou reflect  
 The melancholy face of human life!  
 The strong resemblance tempts me farther still:  
 And, haply, *Britain* may be deeper struck  
 By moral truth, in such a mirror seen,  
 Which nature holds for ever at her eye.  
 Self-flatter'd, unexperienc'd, high in hope,

\* Admiral Balchen, &c.

When young, with sanguine clear, and streamers  
We cut our cable, launch into the world, [gay,  
And fondly dream each wind and star our friend;  
All, in some darling enterprize embarkt:  
But where is he can fathom its event?  
Amid a multitude of artless hands,  
*Ruin's* sure perquisite! her lawful prize!  
*Some* steer aright; but the black blast blows hard,  
And puffs them wide of hope: With hearts of proof,  
Full against wind, and tide, *some* win their way;  
And when strong effort has deserv'd the port,  
And tugg'd it into view, 'tis won! 'tis lost!  
Tho' strong their oar, still stronger is their fate:  
They strike; and, while they triumph, they expire.  
In stress of weather, *most*; *some* sink outright;  
O'er them, and o'er their names, the billows close;  
To-morrow knows not they were ever born.  
*Others* a short memorial leave behind,  
Like a flag floating, when the bark's ingulph'd;  
It floats a moment, and is seen no more:  
One CÆSAR lives; a thousand are forgot.  
How few, beneath auspicious planets born,  
(Darlings of Providence! fond fate's elect!)  
With swelling sails make good the promis'd port,  
With all their wishes freighted! yet ev'n these,  
Freighted with all their wishes, soon complain:  
Free from misfortune, not from nature free,  
They still are men; and when is man secure?

As:

As fatal time, as storm : the rush of years  
 Beats down their strength ; their numberless escapes  
 In ruin end : and, now, their proud success  
 But plants new terrors on the victor's brow :  
 What pain to quit the world, just made their own,  
 Their nest so deeply down'd, and built so high !  
 Too low they build, who build beneath the stars.

Woe then apart (if woe apart can be  
 From mortal man), and fortune at our nod,  
 The gay ! rich ! great ! triumphant ! and august !  
 What are they ?—The most happy (strange to say !)  
 Convince me most of human misery :  
 What are they ? Smiling wretches of *to-morrow* !  
 More wretched, then, than e'er their slave can be ;  
 Their treach'rous blessings, at the day of need,  
 Like other faithless friends, unmask, and sling :  
*Then*, what provoking indigence in wealth !  
 What aggravated impotence in power !  
 High titles, then, what insult of their pain !  
 If that sole anchor, equal to the waves,  
*Immortal hope* ! defies not the rude storm,  
 Takes comfort from the foaming billow's rage,  
 And makes a welcome harbour of the tomb.

Is this a sketch of what thy soul admires ?  
 " But here (thou say'st) the miseries of life  
 " Are huddled in a group. A more distinct  
 " Survey, perhaps, might bring thee better news."  
 Look on life's stages ; they speak plainer still ;  
 The plainer they, the deeper wilt thou sigh.

Look

Look on thy lovely boy ; in him behold  
 The best that can befall the best on earth ;  
 The boy has virtue by his *mother's* side :  
 Yes, on FLORELLO look ; a *father's* heart  
 Is tender, tho' the *man's* is made of stone ;  
 The truth, through such a medium seen, may make  
 Impression deep, and fondness prove thy friend.

FLORELLO lately cast on this rude coast  
 A helpless infant ; now a heedless child ;  
 To poor CLARISSA's throes, thy care succeeds ;  
 Care full of love, and yet severe as hate !  
 O'er thy soul's joy how oft thy fondness frowns !  
 Needful austeries his will restrain ;  
 As thorns fence in the tender plant from harm.  
 As yet, his *reason* cannot go alone ;  
 But asks a sterner nurse to lead it on.  
 His little heart is often terrify'd ;  
 The blush of morning, in his cheek, turns pale ;  
 Its pearly dew-drop trembles in his eye ;  
 His harmless eye ! and drowns an angel there.  
 Ah ! what avails his innocence ? The task  
 Injoin'd must discipline his early powers ;  
 He learns to sigh, ere he is known to sin ;  
 Guiltless, and sad ! a wretch before the fall ?  
 How cruel this ! More cruel to forbear.  
 Our *nature* such, with *necessary* pains  
 We purchase prospects of *precarious* peace :  
 Tho' not a *father*, this might steal a sigh.  
 Suppose him disciplin'd aright (if not,

'Twill

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'Twill sink our poor account to poorer still);  
Ripe from the tutor, proud of liberty,  
He leaps inclosure, bounds into the world;  
The world is taken, after ten years toil,  
Like antient *Troy*; and all its joys his own.  
Alas! the world's a tutor more severe;  
Its lessons hard; and ill deserve his pains;  
Unteaching all his virtuous nature taught,  
Or books (fair virtue's advocates!) inspir'd.

For who receives him into public life?  
*Men of the world*, the teiræ-filial breed,  
Welcome the modest stranger to their sphere,  
(Which glitter'd long, at distance, in his sight)  
And, in their hospitable arms, inclose:  
Men, who think nought so strong of the romance,  
So rank knight-errant, as a real friend:  
Men, that act up to reason's golden rule,  
All weakness of affection quite subdu'd:  
Men, that would blush at being thought sincere,  
And feign, for glory, the few faults they want;  
That love a lye, where truth would pay as well;  
As if, to them, vice shone her own reward.

LORENZO! canst thou bear a shocking sight?  
*Such*, for FLORELLO's sake, 'twill now appear:  
See, the steel'd files of season'd veterans,  
Train'd to the world, in burnisht falsehood bright;  
Deep in the fatal stratagems of peace;  
All soft sensation, in the throng, rubb'd off;  
All their keen purpose, in politeness, sheath'd;

His

His friends eternal—during interest ;  
His foes implacable—when worth their while ;  
At war with ev'ry welfare, but their own ;  
As wise as LUCIFER ; and half as good ;  
And by whom, none, but LUCIFER, can gain—  
Naked, through these (so common fate ordains),  
Naked of heart, his cruel course he runs,  
Stung out of all, most amiable in life, [feign'd ;  
Prompt truth, and open thought, and smiles un-  
Affection, as his species, wide-diffus'd ;  
Noble presumptions to mankind's renown ;  
Ingenuous trust, and confidence of love.

These claims to joy (if mortals joy might claim)  
Will cost him many a sigh ; till time, and pains,  
From the slow mistress of this school, *Experience*,  
And her assistant, pausing, pale, *Distrust*,  
Purchase a dear-bought clue to lead his youth  
Through serpentine obliquities of life,  
And the dark labyrinth of human hearts.  
And happy ! if the clue shall come so cheap ;  
For, while we learn to fence with public guilt,  
Full oft we feel its foul contagion too,  
If less than heav'nly virtue is our guard.  
Thus, a strange kind of curst necessity  
Brings down the sterling temper of his soul,  
By base alloy, to bear the current stamp,  
*Below* call'd wisdom ; sinks him into safety ;  
And brands him into credit with the *world* ;  
Where specious titles dignify disgrace,

And

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And nature's injuries are arts of life ;  
Where brighter reason prompts to bolder crimes ;  
And heav'nly talents make infernal hearts ;  
That unsurmountable extreme of guilt !

Poor MACHIAVEL ! who labour'd hard his plan,  
Forgot, that genius needs not go to school ;  
Forgot, that man, without a tutor wise,  
His plan had practis'd, long before 'twas writ.  
The world's all *title-page*, there's no *contents* ;  
The world's all *face* ; the man who shews his *heart*,  
Is whooted for his nudities, and scorn'd.

A man I knew, who liv'd upon a smile ;  
And well it fed him ; he look'd plump and fair ;  
While rankeft venom foam'd through ev'ry vein.

LORENZO ! what I tell thee, take not ill !

Living, he fawn'd on ev'ry fool alive ;  
And, dying, curs'd the friend on whom he liv'd.  
To such proficients thou art half a faint.

In foreign realms (for thou hast travell'd far)  
How curious to contemplate two state-rooks,  
Studious their nests to feather in a trice,  
With all the *necromanties* of their art,  
Playing the game of *faces* on each other,  
Making court sweet-meats of their latent gill,  
In foolish hope, to steal each other's trust ;  
Both cheating, both exulting, both deceiv'd ;  
And, sometimes, both (let earth rejoice) undone !  
Their parts we doubt not ; but be that their shame ;  
Shall men of talents, fit to rule mankind,

Stoop

Stoop to mean wiles, that would disgrace a fool ?  
And lose the thanks of those few friends they serve ?  
For who can thank the man, he cannot see ?

Why so much cover ? It defeats itself.

Ye, that know all things ! know ye not, mens hearts  
Are therefore known, because they are conceal'd ?  
For why conceal'd ?—The cause they need not tell.  
I give him joy, that's awkward at a lye ;  
Whose feeble nature *truth* keeps still in awe ;  
His incapacity is his renown.

'Tis great, 'tis manly, to disdain *disguise* ;  
It shews our spirit, or it proves our strength.  
Thou sayst, 'Tis *needful*. Is it therefore *right* ?  
Howe'er, I grant it some small sign of grace,  
To strain at an excuse. And wouldst thou then  
Escape that cruel *need* ? Thou mayst, with ease ;  
Think no post *needful* that demands a knave.  
When late our civil helm was shifting bands,  
So *P*— thought : think better, if you can.

But this, how rare ! The public path of life  
Is dirty :—Yet, allow that dirt its due,  
It makes the noble mind more noble still :  
The world's no neuter ; it will wound, or save ;  
Our virtue quench, or indignation fire. [man.  
*You* say ; The world, well-known, will make a  
The world, well-known, will give our hearts to  
heaven,  
Or make us *demons*, long before we die.

To

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To shew how fair the world, *thy* mistress, shines,  
Take either part, sure ills attend the choice ;  
Sure, tho' not equal, detriment ensues.  
Not *virtue's* self is deify'd on earth ;  
*Virtue* has her relapses, conflicts, foes ;  
Foes, that ne'er fail to make her feel their hate.  
*Virtue* has her peculiar set of pains.  
True friends to *virtue*, *last*, and *least*, complain :  
But if they sigh, can others hope to smile ?  
*If wisdom* has her miseries to mourn,  
How can poor *folly* lead a happy life ?  
And if both suffer, what has earth to boast,  
Where he *most* happy, who the *least* laments ?  
Where *much*, *much* patience, the most envy'd state,  
And *some* forgiveness, needs, the best of friends ?  
For friend, or happy life, who looks not higher,  
Of neither shall he find the shadow here.

The world's sworn advocate, without a fee,  
*LORENZO* smartly, with a smile, replies :  
“ Thus far thy song is right ; and all must own,  
“ *Virtue has her peculiar set of pains*. —  
“ And joys peculiar who to vice denies ?  
“ If vice it is, with nature to comply :  
“ If pride, and sense, are so predominant,  
“ To check, not overcome, them, makes a saint,  
“ Can nature in a plainer voice proclaim  
“ *Pleasure, and glory, the chief good of man* ? ”  
Can pride, and sensuality, rejoice ?  
From purity of thought, all pleasure springs ;

And,

And, from an humble spirit, all our *peace*.  
*Ambition, pleasure!* let us talk of these :  
 Of these, the PORCH, and ACADEMY, talk'd ;  
 Of these, each following age had much to say ;  
 Yet unexhausted, still, the needful theme.  
 Who talks of *these*, to mankind all at once  
 He talks ; for where the faint from either free ?  
 Are these thy refuge ?—No ; these rush upon thee ;  
 Thy vitals seize, and *vulture-like*, devour :  
 I'll try, if I can pluck thee from thy rock ;  
 PROMETHEUS ! from this barren ball of earth ;  
 If *reason* can unchain thee, thou art free.

And, first, thy *Caucasus*, ambition, calls ;  
 Mountain of torments ! eminence of woes !  
 Of courted woes ! and courted through mistake ;  
 'Tis not ambition charms thee ; 'tis a cheat  
 Will make thee start, as *H*— at his *Moor*.  
 Dost grasp at greatness ? First, know what it is ;  
 Think'it thou thy greatness in *distinction* lies ?  
 Not in the feather, wave it e'er so high,  
 By *Fortune* stuck, to mark us from the throng.  
 Is glory lodg'd : 'tis lodg'd in the reverse ;  
 In that which joins, in that which equals, all,  
 The monarch, and his slave ;—“A deathless foul,  
 “Unbounded prospect, and immortal kin,  
 “A Father God, and brothers in the skies :”  
 Elder, indeed, in time ; but less remote  
 In excellence, perhaps, than thought by man :  
 Why greater what can fall, than what can rise ?

If still delirious, now, LORENZO ! go ;  
 And with thy full-blown brothers of the *world*,  
 Throw scorn around thee ; cast it on thy slaves ;  
 Thy slaves, and equals : how scorn cast on them  
 Rebounds on thee ! If man is mean, as man,  
 Art thou a god ? If fortune makes him so,  
 Beware the consequence : a maxim that,  
 Which draws a monstrous picture of mankind,  
 Where, in the drapery, the *man* is lost ;  
 Externals flott'ring, and the soul forgot.  
 Thy greatest glory, when dispos'd to boast,  
 Boast *that* aloud, in which thy servants share.

We wisely strip the steed we mean to buy :  
 Judge we, in their caparisons, of *men* ?  
 It nought avails thee, *where*, but *what*, thou art :  
 All the distinctions of this little life  
 Are quite cutaneous, foreign to the man.  
 When, through death's streights, *earth's* subtle  
 serpents creep,  
 Which wriggle into wealth, or climb renown,  
 As crooked *Satan* the forbidden tree,  
 They leave their party-colour'd robe behind,  
 All that now glitters, while they rear aloft  
 Their brazen crests, and hiss at us below.  
 Of fortune's *fucus* strip them, yet alive ;  
 Strip them of body, too ; nay, closer still,  
 Away with all, but *moral*, in their minds ;  
 And let, what then remains, impose their name ;  
 Pronounce them weak, or worthy ; great, or mean.

How mean that snuff of glory *fortune* lights,  
 And *death* puts out ! dost thou demand a test,  
 A test, at once, infallible, and short,  
 Of *real* greatness ? That man greatly lives,  
 Whate'er his fate, or fame, who greatly dies ;  
 High-flush'd with hope, where heroes shall despair,  
 If *this* a true criterion, many courts,  
 Illustrious, might afford but few grandees.

Th' Almighty, from his throne, on earth surveys  
 Nought greater, than an honest, humble heart ;  
 An humble heart, *His* residence ! pronounc'd  
*His* second seat ; and rival to the skies.  
 The private path, the secret acts of men,  
 If noble, far the noblest of our lives !  
 How far above LORENZO's glory fits  
 Th' illustrious master of a name *unknown* ;  
 Whose worth unrivall'd, and unwitnes'd, loves  
 Life's sacred shades, where gods converse with men ;  
 And *peace*, beyond the world's conceptions smiles !  
 As thou (now dark), before we part, shalt see.

But thy great soul this *skulking* glory scorns.  
 LORENZO's sick, but when LORENZO's seen ;  
 And, when he shrugs at public bus'ness, lies.  
 Deny'd the public eye, the public voice,  
 As if he liv'd on others breath, he dies.  
 Fain would he make the world his pedestal ;  
 Mankind the gazers ; the sole figure, he.  
 Knows he, that mankind praise against their will,  
 And mix as much detraction as they can ?

Knows

Knows he, that faithless *fame* her whisper has,  
 As well as trumpet? that his vanity  
 Is so much tickled from not hearing *all*?  
 Knows this all-knower, that from itch of praise,  
 Or, from an itch more sordid, when he shines,  
 Taking his country by five hundred ears,  
 Senates at once admire him, and despise,  
 With modest laughter lining loud applause,  
 Which makes the smile more mortal to his fame.  
 His *fame*, which (like the mighty CÆSAR), crown'd  
 With laurels, in full senate, greatly falls,  
 By seeming friends, that honour, and destroy.  
 We rise in glory, as we sink in pride:  
 Where boasting ends, there dignity begins:  
 And yet, mistaken beyond all mistake,  
 The blind LORENZO's proud—of being proud;  
 And dreams himself ascending in his fall.

An eminence, though fansy'd, turns the brain:  
 All vice wants *bellebore*; but of all vice,  
 Pride loudest calls, and for the largest bowl;  
 Because, unlike all other vice, it flies,  
 In fact, the point, in fancy most pursu'd.  
 Who court applause, oblige the world in *this*;  
 They gratify man's passion to refuse.  
 Superior honour, when *assum'd*, is lost;  
 Ev'n good men turn *banditti*, and rejoice,  
 Like KOULI-KAN, in plunder of the proud.

Tho' somewhat disconcerted, steady still  
 To the world's cause, with half a face of joy,

LORENZO

LORENZO cries—“ Be, then, *ambition* cast ;  
 “ Ambition’s Dearer far stands unimpeach’d,  
 “ *Gay pleasure!* proud *ambition* is her slave ;  
 “ For her, he soars at *great*, and hazards ill ;  
 “ For her, he fights, and bleeds, or overcomes ;  
 “ And paves his way, with crowns, to reach  
 her smile ;  
 “ Who can resist her charms ? ”—Or, *should* ?  
 LORENZO !

What mortal shall resist, where angels yield ?  
*Pleasure*’s the mistress of ethereal powers ;  
 For her contend the rival gods above ;  
*Pleasure*’s the mistress of the world below ;  
 And well it is for man, that *pleasure* charms :  
 How would all stagnate, but for *pleasure*’s ray ?  
 How would the frozen stream of action cease ?  
 What is the pulse of this so busy world ?  
 The love of *pleasure* : that, thro’ ev’ry vein,  
 Throws motion, warmth ; and shuts out death  
 from life.

Tho’ various are the tempers of mankind,  
*Pleasure*’s gay family holds all in chains :  
 Some most affect the black ; and some, the fair ;  
 Some honest *pleasure* court ; and some, obscene.  
*Pleasures obscene* are various, as the throng  
 Of passions, that can *err* in human hearts ;  
 Mistake their objects, or transgress their bounds.  
 Think you there’s but *one* whoredom ? Whore-  
 But when our *reason* licenses delight. [dom, all,

Doſt doubt, LORENZO? thou ſhalt doubt no more.  
 Thy father chides thy gallantries; yet hugs  
 An ugly, common harlot, in the dark;  
 A rank adulterer with others gold:  
 And that hag, *vengeance*, in a corner, charms.  
*Hatred* her brothel has, as well as love,  
 Where horrid *epicures* debauch in blood.  
 Whate'er the motive, *pleasure* is the mark;  
 For her, the black assassin draws his ſword;  
 For her, dark ſtatesmen trim their midnight lamp,  
 To which no *single* ſacrifice may fall;  
 For her, the faint abstains; the miser starves;  
 The *Stoic* proud, for pleasure, pleasure ſcorn'd;  
 For her, *affliction*'s daughters grief indulge,  
 And find, or hope, a luxury in tears;  
 For her, guilt, shame, toil, danger, we defy;  
 And, with an aim *voluptuous*, rush on death.  
 Thus universal her despotic power.

And as her empire wide, her praise is just.  
 Patron of pleasure! doater on delight!  
 I am thy rival; pleasure I profess;  
 Pleasure, the purpose of my gloomy ſong.  
*Pleasure* is nougħt but virtue's gayer name;  
 I wrong her ſtill, I rate her worth too low;  
 Virtue the root, and pleasure is the flower;  
 And honest EPICURUS' foes were fools.

But this ſounds harsh, and gives the *wife* offence;  
 If o'erstrain'd wisdom ſtill retains the *name*.  
 How knits *austerity* her cloudy brow,

And

And blames, as bold, and hazardous, the *praise*  
 Of *pleasure*, to mankind, *unprais'd*, too dear!  
 Ye modern *Stoicks*! hear my soft reply;  
 Their senses men *will* trust: we can't impose;  
 Or, if we could, is imposition right?  
 Own *honey sweet*; but, owning, add this *fling*;  
 "When mixt with poison, it is deadly too."  
 Truth never was indebted to a lye.  
 Is nought but *virtue* to be prais'd, as good?  
 Why then is health preferr'd before disease?  
 What nature loves is good, without *our* leave.  
 And where no future drawback cries, "Beware;"  
*Pleasure*, though not from *virtue*, *should* prevail.  
 'Tis balm to life, and gratitude to Heaven:  
 How cold our thanks for bounties unenjoy'd!  
 The *love of pleasure* is man's eldest-born,  
 Born in his cradle, living to his tomb;  
*Wisdom*, her younger sister, tho' more grave,  
 Was meant to *minister*, and not to mar,  
*Imperial pleasure*, queen of human hearts.

LORENZO! Thou, her majesty's renown'd,  
 Tho' uncoift, counsel, learned in *the world*!  
 Who think'st thyself a MURRAY, with disdain  
 Mayst look on me. Yet, my DEMOSTHENES!  
 Canst thou plead *pleasure's* cause as well as I?  
 Know'st thou her *nature*, *purpose*, *parentage*?  
 Attend my song, and thou shalt know them all;  
 And know thyself; and know thyself to be  
 (Strange truth!) the most abstemious man alive.

Tell not CALISTA; she will laugh thee dead;  
 Or send thee to her hermitage with L.—.  
 Absurd presumption! Thou, who never knew'st  
 A serious thought! shalt thou dare dream of joy?  
 No man e'er found a *happy life* by chance;  
 Or yawn'd it into being, with a wish;  
 Or, with the snout of grov'ling *appetite*,  
 E'er smelt it out, and grubb'd it from the dirt.  
 An *art* it is, and must be learnt; and learnt  
 With unremitting effort, or be lost;  
 And leave us perfect blockheads, in our bliss.  
 The clouds may drop down titles and estates;  
*Wealth* may seek us; but *wisdom* must be sought;  
 Sought before all; but (how unlike all else  
 We seek on earth!) 'tis never sought in vain.

First, *pleasure's* birth, rise, strength, and gran-  
 deur, see:

Brought forth by *wisdom*, nurst by *discipline*,  
 By *patience* taught, by *perseverance* crown'd,  
 She bears her head majestic; round her throne  
 Erected in the bosom of the just,  
 Each virtue, listed, forms her manly guard.  
 For what are *virtues*? (Formidable name!)  
 What, but the fountain, or defence, of joy?  
 Why, then, commanded? Need mankind com-  
 mands,  
 At once to *merit*, and to *make*, their bliss?—  
 Great Legislator! Scarce so great, as kind!  
 If men are rational, and love delight,

Thy

Thy gracious law but flatters human choice ;  
In the transgression lies the penalty ;  
And they the most indulge, who most obey.

Of *pleasure*, next, the final cause explore ;  
Its mighty *purpose*, its important *end*.  
Not to turn *human* brutal, but to build  
*Divine* on *human*, *pleasure* came from heaven.  
In aid to *reason* was the goddess sent ;  
To call up all its strength by such a charm.  
*Pleasure*, first, succours *virtue* ; in return,  
*Virtue* gives *pleasure* an eternal reign.  
What, but the pleasure of food, friendship, faith,  
Supports life *natural*, *civil*, and *divine* ?  
'Tis from the pleasure of repast, we live ;  
'Tis from the pleasure of applause, we please ;  
'Tis from the pleasure of belief, we pray  
(All pray'r would cease, if unbeliev'd the prize) :  
It serves ourselves, our species, and our GOD ;  
And to serve more, is past the sphere of man !  
Glide, then, for ever, pleasure's sacred stream !  
Through *Eden* as *Euphrates* ran, it runs,  
And fosters ev'ry growth of happy life ;  
Makes a new *Eden* where it flows ;—but such  
As must be lost, LORENZO ! by thy fall.

"What mean I by thy fall?"—Thou'l shortly see,  
While pleasure's *nature* is at large display'd ;  
Already sung her *origin*, and *ends*.  
Those glorious ends, by kind, or by degree,  
When *pleasure* violates, 'tis then a vice,

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And vengeance too ; it hastens into pain.

From due refreshment, life, health, reason, joy ;  
From wild excess, pain, grief, distraction, death ;  
Heav'n's justice *this* proclaims, and *that* her love.

What greater evil can I wish my foe,

Than his full draught of pleasure, from a cask

Unbroach'd by *just authority*, ungaug'd

*By temperance*, by *reason* unrefin'd ?

A thousand demons lurk within the lee.

Heav'n, others, and ourselves ! Uninjur'd *these*,

Drink deep ; the deeper, then, the more divine ;

Angels are angels from indulgence *there* ;

'Tis unrepenting pleasure makes a God.

Dost think thyself a God from other joys ?

A victim rather ! shortly sure to bleed.

The wrong *must* mourn : can Heav'n's appointments fail ?

Can man outwit Omnipotence ? Strike out

A self-wrought happiness unmeant by *Him*

Who made us, and the world we would enjoy ?

Who forms an instrument, ordains from whence  
Its dissonance, or harmony, shall rise.

Heav'n bid the soul this mortal frame inspire ;

Bid virtue's ray divine inspire the soul

With unprecious flows of vital joy ;

And, without breathing, man as well might hope  
For life, as, without piety, for peace.

" Is *virtue*, then, and *piety* the same ? " —

No ; piety is more ; 'tis virtue's source ;

Mother

Mother of ev'ry worth, as that of joy.  
*Men of the world* this doctrine ill digest ;  
They smile at piety ; yet boast aloud .  
*Good-will to men* ; nor know they strive to part  
What *nature* joins ; and thus confute themselves.  
With *piety* begins all good on earth ;  
'Tis the first-born of rationality.  
*Conscience*, her first law broken, wounded lies ;  
Enfeebled, lifeless, impotent to good ;  
A feign'd affection bounds her utmost power.  
*Some* we can't love, but for th' Almighty's sake ;  
A foe to *God* was ne'er true friend to man ;  
Some sinister intent taints all he does,  
And, in his kindest actions, he's unkind.

On piety, humanity is built ;  
And, on humanity, much happiness ;  
And yet still more on piety itself.  
*A soul* in commerce with her *God*, is heaven ;  
Feels not the tumults and the shocks of life ;  
The whirls of passions, and the strokes of heart.  
*A Deity* believ'd, is joy begun ;  
*A Deity* ador'd, is joy advanc'd ;  
*A Deity* belov'd, is joy matur'd.  
Each branch of *piety* delight inspires ;  
*Faith* builds a bridge from this world to the next,  
O'er death's dark gulph, and all its horror hides ;  
*Praise*, the sweet exhalation of our joy,  
That joy exalts, and makes it sweeter still ;  
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Of glory on the consecrated hour  
 Of man, in audience with the Deity.  
 Who worships the *Great God*, that instant joins  
 The first in heav'n, and sets his foot on hell.

**L**ORENZO! when wast thou at church *before?*  
 Thou think'st the service long: but is it just?  
 'Tho' just, unwelcome: thou hadst rather tread  
 Unhallow'd ground; the muse, to win thine ear,  
 Must take an air less solemn. She complies.  
*Good conscience!* at the sound the world retires;  
 Verse disaffects it, and LORENZO smiles;  
 Yet has she her *seraglio* full of charms;  
 And such as age shall heighten, not impair.  
 Art thou dejected? is thy mind o'ercast?  
 Amid her fair ones, thou the fairest chuse,  
 To chase thy gloom.—“ Go, fix some weighty  
 truth;

“ Chain down some *passion*; do some *gen'rous good*;  
 “ Teach *ignorance* to see, or *grief* to smile;  
 “ Correct thy *friend*; befriend thy greatest *foe*;  
 “ Or, with warm heart, and confidence divine,  
 “ Spring up, and lay strong hold on *Him* who  
 made thee.”—

Thy gloom is scatter'd, sprightly spirits flow;  
 Tho' wither'd is thy vine, and harp unstrung.

Dost call the bowl, the viol, and the dance,  
 Loud mirth, mad laughter? Wretched comforters!  
 Physicians! more than half of thy disease.

*Laughter,*

*Laughter*, tho' never censur'd yet as sin,  
 (Pardon a thought that only *seems* severe)  
 Is half-immoral. Is it much indulg'd?  
 By venting spleen, or dissipating thought,  
 It shews a *scorner*, or it makes a *fool*;  
 And sins, as hurting others, or ourselves.  
 'Tis *pride*, or *emptiness*, applies the straw,  
 That tickles little minds to mirth effuse;  
 Of grief approaching, the portentous sign!  
 The house of laughter makes a house of woe.  
 A man *triumphant* is a monstrous sight;  
 A man *dejected* is a sight as mean.

What cause for *triumph*, where such ills abound?  
 What for *dejection*, where presides a Power,  
 Who call'd us into being to be blest?  
 So grieve, as conscious, grief may rise to joy;  
 So joy, as conscious, joy to grief may fall.  
 Most true, a wise man never will be sad;  
 But neither will sonorous, bubbling mirth,  
 A shallow stream of happiness betray:  
 Too happy to be sportive, he's serene.

Yet wouldst thou laugh (but at thy own expence)  
 This counsel strange should I presume to give—  
 “Retire, and read thy *Bible*, to be gay.”  
 There truths abound of sov'reign aid to peace;  
 Ah! do not prize them less, because inspir'd,  
 As thou, and thine, are apt and proud to do.  
 If not inspir'd, that pregnant page had stood,  
 Time's treasure! and the wonder of the wise!

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Thou think'st, perhaps, thy *soul* alone at stake ;  
Alas !—Should men mistake thee for a *fool* ;—  
What man of taste for genius, wisdom, truth,  
Tho' tender of thy fame, could interpose ?  
Believe me, sense, *here*, acts a double part,  
**And** the true *Critic* is a *Christian* too. [joy.—

But *these*, thou think'st, are gloomy paths to  
*True* joy in sunshine ne'er was found at first ;  
They, first, themselves offend, who greatly please ;  
And travel only gives us sound repose.  
*Heav'n* sells all pleasure ; effort is the price ;  
The joys of conquest, are the joys of man ;  
And *glory* the victorious *laurel* spreads  
*O'er* *pleasure*'s pure, perpetual, placid stream.

There is a time, when toil must be preferr'd,  
Or joy, by mis-tim'd fondness, is undone.  
A man of *pleasure* is a man of *pains*.

Thou wilt not take the trouble to be blest.  
*False* joys, indeed, are born from want of thought ;  
From thought's full bent, and energy, the *true* ;  
And that demands a mind in equal poize,  
Remote from gloomy grief, and glaring joy.  
Much joy not only speaks small happiness,  
But happiness, that shortly must expire.  
Can joy, unbottom'd in reflection, stand ?  
And, in a tempest, can reflection live ?  
Can joy, like thine, secure itself an hour ?  
Can joy, like thine, meet accident unshock'd ?  
Or ope the door to honest poverty ?

Or

Or talk with threat'ning death, and not turn pale?  
 In such a world, and such a nature, *these*  
 Are needful fundamentals of delight :  
 These fundamentals give delight *indeed* ;  
 Delight, pure, delicate, and durable ;  
 Delight, unshaken, masculine, divine ;  
 A constant, and a sound, but *serious* joy.

Is joy the daughter of severity ?  
 It is :—yet far my doctrine from severe.  
 “ Rejoice for ever :” it becomes a man ;  
 Exalts, and sets him nearer to the gods.  
 “ Rejoice for ever,” *Nature* cries, “ Rejoice ;”  
 And drinks to man, in her nectareous cup,  
 Mixt up of delicates for ev’ry sense ;  
 To the great Founder of the bounteous feast,  
 Drunks glory, gratitude, eternal praise ;  
 And he that will not *pledge her*, is a churl.  
 Ill firmly to support, good fully taste,  
 Is the whole science of felicity :  
 Yet sparing pledge : her bowl is not the best  
 Mankind can boast.—“ A rational repast ;  
 “ Exertion, vigilance, a mind in arms,  
 “ A military discipline of thought,  
 “ To foil *temptation* in the doubtful field ;  
 “ And ever-waking ardor for *the right*.  
 ’Tis *these*, first, give, then guard, a cheerful heart.  
 Nought that is *right*, think little ; well aware,  
 What reason bids, GOD bids ; by *His* command  
 How aggrandiz’d, the smallest thing we do !

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Thus, *nothing* is insipid to the wise ;  
To thee, insipid all, but what is *mad* ;  
Joys season'd high, and tasting strong of guilt.

" *Mad!* (thou reply'st, with indignation fir'd)  
" Of antient sages proud to tread the steps,  
" " *I follow nature.*" —Follow *nature* still,  
But look it be thine own : Is *conscience*, then,  
No part of *nature*? Is she not *supreme*?  
Thou regicide ! O raise her from the dead !  
Then, follow *nature* ; and resemble GOD.

When, spite of *conscience*, pleasure is pursu'd,  
*Man's* nature is *unnaturally* pleas'd :  
And what's unnatural, is painful too  
At intervals, and must disgust ev'n thee !  
The *fact* thou know'st ; but not, perhaps, the *cause*.  
*Virtue*'s foundations with the world's were laid ;  
Heav'n mixt her with our make, and twisted close  
Her sacred int'rests with the strings of life.  
Who breaks her awful mandate, shocks himself,  
His better self : And is it greater pain,  
*Our soul* should murmur, or *our dust* repine ?  
And one, in their eternal war, *must* bleed.

If one *must* suffer, which should least be spar'd ?  
The pains of mind surpass the pains of sense :  
Ask, then, the gout, what torment is in guilt.  
The joys of *sense* to *mental* joys are mean ;  
Sense on the present only feeds ; the soul  
On past, and future, forages for joy.  
'Tis hers, by retrospect, thro' time to range ;

And

And forward time's great sequel to survey.  
 Could human courts take vengeance on the *mind*,  
 Axes might rust, and racks, and gibbets, fall :  
 Guard, then, thy mind, and leave the rest to fate.

**L**ORENZO ! wilt thou never be a man ?  
 The man is dead, who for the body lives,  
 Lur'd, by the beating of his pulse, to lust  
 With ev'ry lust, that wars against his peace ;  
 And sets him quite at variance with himself.  
 Thyself, first, know ; then love : A self there is  
 Of virtue fond, that kindles at her charms.  
 A self there is, as fond of ev'ry vice,  
 While ev'ry virtue wounds it to the heart ;  
 Humility degrades it, justice robs,  
 Blest bounty beggars it, fair truth betrays,  
 And godlike magnanimity destroys.  
 This self, when rival to the former, scorn ;  
 When not in competition, kindly treat,  
 Defend it, feed it :—but when virtue bids,  
 Toss it, or to the fowls, or to the flames.  
 And why ? 'Tis love of pleasure bids thee bleed ;  
 Comply, or own self-love extinct, or blind.

For, what is vice ? Self-love in a mistake ;  
 A poor blind merchant buying joys too dear.  
 And virtue, what ? 'Tis self-love in her wits,  
 Quite skilful in the market of delight.  
 Self-love's good sense is love of that dread Power,  
 From whom herself, and all she can enjoy.  
 Other self-love is but disguis'd self-hate ;

More

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More mortal than the malice of our foes ;  
A self-hate, *now*, scarce felt ; *then* felt full-sore,  
When Being, curst ; Extinction, loud-implor'd ;  
And ev'ry thing preferr'd to what we *are*.

Yet *this* self-love LORENZO makes his choice ;  
And, in this choice triumphant, boasts of joy.

How is his want of happiness betray'd,  
By disaffection to the present hour !

Imagination wanders far afield :

The future pleases : Why ? The present pains.—  
“ But that's a *secret*. ”—Yes, which all men know ;  
And know from thee, discover'd unawares.

Thy ceaseless agitation, restless roll  
From cheat to cheat, impatient of a pause ;  
What is it ?—’Tis the cradle of the soul,  
From *instinct* sent, to rock her in disease,  
Which her physician, *Reason*, will not cure.  
A poor expedient, yet thy best ; and while  
It mitigates thy pain, it *owns* it too.

Such are LORENZO's wretched remedies !  
The weak have remedies ; the wise have joys,  
Superior wisdom is superior bliss.

And what sure mark distinguishes the wise ?  
Consistent wisdom ever wills the same ;  
Thy fickle wish is ever on the wing.  
Sick of herself, is *folly*'s character ;  
As *wisdom*'s is, a modest self-applause.  
A change of evils is *tby* good supreme ;

Nor,

Nor, but in motion, canst thou find thy rest.  
Man's greatest strength is shewn in standing still.  
The first sure symptom of a mind in health,  
Is rest of heart, and pleasure felt at home.  
*False* pleasure from abroad her joys imports ;  
Rich from within, and self-sustain'd, the *true*,  
The *true* is fixt, and solid as a rock ;  
Slipp'ry the *false*, and tossing, as the wave.  
*This*, a wild wanderer on earth, like CAIN ;  
*That*, like the fabled, self-enamour'd boy,  
Home-contemplation her supreme delight ;  
She dreads an interruption from without,  
Smit with her own condition ; and the more  
Intense she gazes, still it charms the more.

No man is happy, till he thinks, on earth  
There breathes not a more happy than himself :  
Then envy dies, and love o'erflows on all ;  
And love o'erflowing, makes an angel here.  
Such angels all, intitled to repose  
On *Him* who governs fate : tho' tempest frowns,  
Tho' nature shakes, how soft to lean on heaven !  
To lean on *Him*, on whom archangels lean !  
With inward eyes, and silent as the grave,  
They stand collecting ev'ry beam of thought,  
Till their hearts kindle with divine delight ;  
For all their thoughts, like angels, seen of old  
In ISRAEL's dream, come from, and go to,  
heaven :

Hence,

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Hence, are *they* studious of sequestred scenes ;  
While noise, and dissipation, comfort *thee*.

Were all men happy, revellings would cease,  
That opiate for inquietude within.

LORENZO ! never man was truly blest,  
But it compos'd, and gave him such a cast,  
As folly might mistake for want of joy.  
A cast, unlike the triumph of the proud ;  
A modest aspect, and a smile at heart.  
O for a joy from thy PHILANDER's spring !  
A spring perennial, rising in the breast,  
And permanent, as pure ! No turbid stream  
Of rapt'rous exultation swelling high ;  
Which, like land-floods, impetuous pour awhile,  
Then sink at once, and leave us in the mire.  
What does the man, who transient joy prefers ?  
What, but prefer the bubbles to the stream ?

Vain are all sudden fallies of delight ;  
Convulsions of a weak distemper'd joy.  
Joy's a fixt state ; a tenure, not a start.  
Bliss there is none, but *unprecarius* bliss :  
That is the gem : sell all, and purchase that.  
Why go a begging to contingencies,  
Not gain'd with ease, nor safely lov'd, if gain'd ?  
At good fortuitous, draw back, and pause ;  
Suspect it ; what thou canst ensure, enjoy ;  
And nought but what thou giv'st thyself, is sure.  
*Reason* perpetuates joy that reason gives,  
And makes it as immortal as herself :

To

To mortals, nought immortal, but their worth.

Worth, conscious worth ! should *absolutely* reign ;  
And other joys ask leave for their approach ;  
Nor, unexamin'd, ever leave obtain.

Thou art all anarchy ; a mob of joys  
Wage war, and perish in intestine broils ;  
Not the least promise of internal peace !

No bosom-comfort ! or unborrow'd bliss !  
Thy thoughts are vagabonds ; all outward-bound,  
Mid sands, and rocks, and storms, to cruise for  
pleasure ;

If gain'd, dear bought ; and better miss'd than  
gain'd.

Much pain must expiate, what much pain procur'd.  
*Fancy*, and *sense*, from an infected shore,  
Thy cargo bring ; and pestilence the prize.  
Then, such thy thirst (insatiable thirst !  
By fond indulgence but inflam'd the more !)  
*Fancy* still cruises, when poor *sense* is tir'd.

Imagination is the *Paphian* shop,  
Where feeble happiness, like *VULCAN*, lame,  
Bids foul *ideas*, in their dark recess,  
And hot as hell (which kindled the black fires),  
With wanton art, those fatal arrows form,  
Which murder all thy time, health, wealth, and  
fame.

Wouldst thou receive them, other thoughts there are,  
On angel-wing, descending from above,

Which

Which these, with art divine, would counterwork,  
And form celestial armour for thy peace.

In *this* is seen imagination's guilt ;  
But who can count her *follies*? She betrays thee,  
To think in grandeur there is something great.  
For works of curious art, and antient fame,  
Thy genius hungers, elegantly pain'd ;  
And foreign climes must cater for thy taste.  
Hence, what disaster!—Tho' the price was paid,  
That persecuting priest, the *Turk of Rome*,  
Whose foot (ye gods!) tho' cloven, must be kiss'd,  
Detain'd thy dinner on the *Latian* shore ;  
(Such is the fate of honest Protestants !)  
And poor *magnificence* is starv'd to death.  
Hence just resentment, indignation, ire!—  
Be pacify'd ; if *outward* things are great,  
'Tis magnanimity great things to scorn ;  
Pompous expences, and parades august,  
And courts ; that insalubrious soil to peace.  
True happiness ne'er enter'd at an eye ;  
True happiness resides in things unseen.  
No smiles of *fortune* ever blest the bad,  
Nor can her frowns rob *innocence* of joys ;  
*That jewel wanting, triple crowns are poor :*  
So tell his *Holiness*, and be reveng'd.

*Pleasure*, we both agree, is man's chief good ;  
Our only contest, what deserves the name.  
Give *pleasure*'s name to nought, but what has pass'd  
Th' authentic seal of *reasin* (which, like YORKE,  
Demurrs

work, Demurrs on what it passes), and defies  
The tooth of time; when past, a pleasure still;  
Dearer on trial, lovelier for its age,  
And doubly to be priz'd, as it promotes  
Our future, while it forms our present, joy.  
Some joys the future overcast; and some  
Throw all their beams that way, and gild the tomb.  
Some joys endear eternity; some give  
Abhor'd annihilation dreadful charms.  
Are rival joys contending for thy choice?  
Consult thy *whole existence*, and be safe;  
That oracle will put all doubt to flight.  
Short is the lesson, tho' my lecture long,  
*Be good*—and let Heav'n answer for the rest.

Yet, with a sigh o'er all mankind, I grant,  
In this our day of proof, our land of hope,  
The *good man* has his clouds that intervene;  
Clouds, that *obscure* his sub'lunary day,  
But never *conquer*: ev'n the *best* must own,  
*Patience*, and *resignation*, are the pillars  
Of human peace on earth. The pillars, these;  
But those of *SETH* not more remote from thee,  
Till *this* heroic lesson thou hast learnt;  
To frown at *pleasure*, and to smile in *pain*.  
Fir'd at the prospect of unclouded bliss,  
Heav'n in reversion, like the sun, as yet  
Beneath th' horizon, clears us in this world;  
It sheds, on souls susceptible of light,  
The glorious dawn of our eternal day.

" This

" This (says LORENZO) is a fair harangue :  
 " But can harangues blow back strong nature's  
 stream ;  
 " Or stem the tide heav'n pushes thro' our veins,  
 " Which sweeps away man's impotent resolves,  
 " And lays his labour level with the *world*?"  
 Themselves men make their comment on man-kind ;

And think nought *is*, but what they find at home :  
 Thus, weakness to chimera turns the truth.  
 Nothing romantic has the muse prescrib'd.  
 \* Above, LORENZO saw the man of earth,  
 The *mortal man* ; and wretched was the sight.  
 To balance that, to comfort, and exalt,  
 Now see the *man immortal* : Him, I mean,  
 Who lives as such ; whose heart, full-bent on  
 heaven,

Leans all *that way*, his bias to the stars.  
 The *world's* dark shades, in contrast set, shall raise  
*His lustre more* ; tho' bright, without a foil :  
 Observe his awful portrait, and admire ;  
 Nor stop at wonder ; imitate, and live.

Some angel guide my pencil, while I draw,  
 What nothing less than angel can exceed,  
 A man on earth devoted to the skies ;  
 Like ships in seas, while *in, above* the world.

With aspect mild, and elevated eye,  
 Behold him seated on a mount serene,  
 Above the fogs of *sense*, and *passion's* storm ;

\* In a former Night.

All

All the black cares, and tumults, of this life,  
Like harmless thunders, breaking at his feet,  
Excite his pity, not impair his peace.

*Earth's* genuine sons, the scepter'd, and the slave,  
A mingled mob ! a wand'ring herd ! he sees  
Bewilder'd in the vale ; in all unlike !  
His full reverse in all ! What higher praise ?  
What stronger demonstration of the right ?

The present all *their* care ; the future, *his*.  
When public welfare calls, or private want,  
*They* give to fame ; his bounty *he* conceals.  
*Their* virtues varnish nature ; *his* exalt.  
Mankind's esteem *they* court ; and *he*, his own.  
*Theirs*, the wild chace of *false* felicities ;  
*His*, the compos'd possession of the *true*.  
Alike throughout is *his* consistent peace,  
All of one colour, and an even thread ;  
While party-colour'd shreds of happiness,  
With hideous gaps between, patch up for *them*  
A madman's robe ; each puff of *fortune* blows  
The tatters by, and shews their nakedness.

*He* sees with other eyes than *theirs* : where *they*  
Behold a *fun*, *he* spies a *Deity* ;  
What makes *them* only smile, makes *him* adore.  
Where *they* see *mountains*, *he* but *atoms* sees ;  
*An empire*, in *his* balance, weighs a *grain*.  
*They* things terrestrial v'orship, as divine ;  
*His* hopes immortal blow them by, as dust,  
That dims his sight, and shortens his survey,

Which

Which longs, in infinite, to lose all bound.  
 Titles and honours (if they prove his fate)  
*He* lays aside to find his dignity ;  
 No dignity *they* find in aught besides.  
*They* triumph in externals (which conceal  
 Man's real glory), proud of an eclipse.  
 Himself too much *he* prizes to be proud,  
 And nothing thinks so great in man, as *man*.  
 Too dear *he* holds his int'rest, to neglect  
 Another's welfare, or his right invade ;  
*Their* int'rest, like a lion, lives on prey.  
*They* kindle at the shadow of a wrong ;  
 Wrong *he* sustains with temper, looks on heaven,  
 Nor stoops to think his injurer his foe ;  
 Nought, but what wounds his virtue, wounds his  
 peace.

A cover'd heart *their* character defends ;  
 A cover'd heart denies *him* half his praise.  
 With nakedness *his* innocence agrees ;  
 While *their* broad foliage testifies their fall.  
*Their* no joys end, where *his* full feast begins ;  
*His* joys create, *theirs* murder, future bliss.  
 To triumph in existence, *his* alone ;  
 And *his* alone, triumphantly to think  
 His *true* existence is not yet begun.  
 His glorious course was, yesterday, complete ;  
 Death, then, was welcome ; yet life still is sweet.

But nothing charms LORENZO, like the firm,  
 Undaunted breast—And whose is that high praise ?

They yield to pleasure, tho' they danger brave,  
 And shew no fortitude, but in the field ;  
 If there they shew it, 'tis for glory shewn ;  
 Nor will that cordial always man *their* hearts.  
 A cordial *his* sustains, that cannot fail ;  
 By pleasure unsubdu'd, unbroke by pain,  
*He* shares in that Omnipotence he trusts.  
 All-bearing, all-attempting, till he falls ;  
 And when he falls, writes VICI on his shield.  
 From magnanimity, all fear above ;  
 From nobler recompence, above *applause* ;  
 Which owes to man's *short* cut-look all its charms.

Backward to credit what he never felt,  
 LORENZO cries,—“ Where shines this miracle ?  
 “ From what root rises this *Immortal man* ? ”  
 A root that grows not in LORENZO's ground ;  
 The root disject, nor wonder at the flower.

*He follows nature* (not like \* thee) ; and shews us  
 An un-inverted system of a man.  
*His appetite wears reason's golden chain*,  
 And finds, in due restraint, its luxury.  
*His passion*, like an eagle well-reclaim'd,  
 Is taught to fly at nought, but infinite.  
 Patient his *hope*, un-anxious is his *care*,  
*His caution* fearless, and his *grief* (if grief  
 The gods ordain) a stranger to despair.  
 And why ?—Because affection, more than meets,  
 His wisdom leaves not disengag'd from heaven.

\* See Page 252, Line 6.

Those secondary goods that smile on earth,  
He, loving in proportion, loves in peace.  
They most the world enjoy, who least admire.  
His understanding 'scapes the common cloud  
Of fumes, arising from a boiling breast.  
His head his clear, because his heart is cool,  
By worldly competitions uninflam'd.  
The mod'rate movements of his soul admit  
Distinct ideas, and matur'd debate,  
An eye impartial, and an even scale ;  
Whence judgment sound, and unrepenting choice.  
Thus, in a double sense, the good are wise ;  
On its own dunghill, wiser than the world.  
What, then, the world ? It *must* be doubly weak :  
Strange truth ! as soon would they believe their *creed*.

Yet thus it is ; nor otherwise can be ;  
So far from aught romantic, what I sing.  
Bliss has no being, virtue has no strength,  
But from the prospect of immortal life.  
Who think earth all, or (what weighs just the same)  
Who care no farther, must prize what it yields ;  
Fond of its fancies, proud of its parades.  
Who thinks earth nothing, can't its charms admire ;  
He can't a foe, tho' most malignant, hate,  
Because that hate would prove his greater foe.  
'Tis hard for them (yet who so loudly boast  
Good-will to men?) to love their dearest friend ;  
For may not he invade their good supreme,  
Where the least jealousy turns love to gall ?

All shines to *them*, that for a season shines.  
 Each act, each thought, he questions, "What its  
     weight,  
 " Its colour what, a thousand ages hence?"—  
 And what it *there* appears, he deems it *now*.  
 Hence, pure are the recesses of his soul.  
 The God-like man has nothing to conceal.  
 His virtue, constitutionally deep,  
 Has habit's firmness, and *affection's* flame;  
 Angels, ally'd, descend to feed the fire;  
 And *death*, which others slays, makes him a *god*.

And now, LORENZO! bigot of this world!  
 Wont to disdain poor bigots caught by Heaven?  
 Stand by thy *scorn*, and be reduc'd to *nought*:  
 For what art thou? Thou boaster! while *thy* glare,  
 Thy gaudy grandeur, and mere worldly worth,  
 Like a broad mist, at distance strikes us most;  
 And, like a mist, is nothing when at hand;  
*His* merit, like a mountain, on approach,  
 Swells more, and rises nearer to the skies,  
 By promise, *now*, and, by possession, *soon*,  
 (Too soon, too much, it cannot be) his own.

From this thy just *annihilation* rise,  
 LORENZO! rise to *something*, by reply.  
 The world, thy client, listens, and expects;  
 And longs to crown thee with immortal praise.  
 Canst thou be silent? No; for *wit* is thine;  
 And *wit* talks *worst*, when *least* she has to say,

N

And

And reason interrupts not her career.

She'll say—*That mists above the mountains rise;*  
And, with a thousand pleasantries, amuse;  
She'll sparkle, puzzle, flutter, raise a dust,  
And fly conviction, in the dust she rais'd.

Wit, how delicious to man's dainty taste!—

'Tis precious, as the vehicle of *sense* ;  
But, as its substitute, a dire disease.

Pernicious talent! flatter'd by the world,  
By the blind world, which thinks the talent rare.

Wisdom is rare, LORENZO! wit abounds;

*Passion* can give it; sometimes *wine* inspires  
The lucky flash; and *madness* rarely fails.

Whatever cause the spirit strongly stirs,  
Confers the bays, and rivals thy renown.

For thy renown, 'twere well, was this the worst;  
*Chance* often hits it; and, to pique thee more,

See *dulness*, blund'ring on vivacities,  
Shakes her sage head at the calamity,

Which has expos'd, and let her down to thee.

But *wisdom*, awful wisdom! which inspects,  
Discerns, compares, weighs, separates, infers,

Seizes the right, and holds it to the last;

How rare! in senates, synods, sought in vain;  
Or if there found, 'tis sacred to the few;

While a lewd prostitute to multitudes,

Frequent, as fatal, *wit*: in civil life,  
*Wit* makes an enterprizer; *sense*, a man.

*Wit* hates authority; commotion loves,

And

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And thinks herself the light'ning of the storm.  
 In *States*, 'tis dangerous; in *Religion*, death:  
 Shall wit turn christian, when the dull believe?  
*Sense* is our *helmet*, wit is but the plume;  
 The plume exposes, 'tis our *helmet* saves.

*Sense* is the di'mond, weighty, solid, sound:  
 When cut by wit, it casts a brighter beam;  
 Yet, wit apart, it is a di'mond still.  
*Wit*, widow'd of *good-sense*, is worse than nought;  
 It hoists more sail to run against a rock.

Thus, a *Half-CHESTERFIELD* is quite a fool;  
 Whom dull fools scorn, and bless their want of wit.

How ruinous the rock I warn thee shun,  
 Where *Sirens* sit, to sing thee to thy fate!  
*A joy*, in which our *reason* bears no part,  
 Is but a sorrow tickling, ere it stings.  
 Let not the cooings of the *world* allure thee;  
 Which of her lovers ever found her true?  
*Happy!* of this bad world who little know;—  
 And yet, we much must know her, to be *safe*.  
 To *know* the world, not *love* her, is thy point;  
 She gives but little, nor that little, long.  
 There is, I grant, a triumph of the pulse;  
 A dance of spirits, a mere froth of joy,  
 Our thoughtless agitation's idle child,  
 That mantles high, that sparkles, and expires,  
 Leaving the soul more vapid than before.  
 An *animal* ovation! such as holds  
 No commerce with our *reason*, but subsifts

On juices, thro' the well-ton'd tubes, well-strain'd;  
 A nice machine! scarce ever tun'd aright;  
 And when it jars—thy *Sirens* sing no more;  
 Thy dance is done; the *demi go.t* is thrown  
 (Short apotheosis!) beneath the *man*,  
 In coward gloom immers'd, or fell despair.

Art thou yet *dull enough* despair to dread,  
 And startle at destruction? If thou art,  
 Accept a buckler, take it to the field;  
 (A field of battle is this mortal life!)  
 When danger threatens, lay it on thy heart;  
 A single sentence proof against the *world*.  
 " *Soul, body, fortune!* ev'ry good pertains  
 " To one of these; but prize not all alike;  
 " The goods of fortune to thy body's health,  
 " Body to soul, and soul submit to God."  
 Wouldst thou build lasting happiness? do this;  
 Th' inverted *pyramid* can never stand.

Is this truth doubtful? It outshines the sun;  
 Nay, the sun shines not, but to shew us this,  
 The single lesson of mankind on earth.  
 And yet—Yet, what? No news! Mankind is mad;  
 Such mighty numbers lift against the right,  
 (And what can't numbers, when bewitch'd,  
 Atchieve!)

They talk themselves to something like belief,  
 That all earth's joys are theirs; as *Athens' fool*  
*Grinn'd* from the port, on ev'ry sail his own.

They grin; but wherefore? and how long they  
 laugh?

Half

Half ignorance, their mirth ; and half, a lye ;  
 To cheat the world, and cheat themselves, they  
 smile.

Hard either task ! the most abandon'd own,  
 That others, if abandon'd, are undone :  
 Then, for themselves, the moment *reason* wakes,  
 (And Providence denies it long repose)  
 O how laborious is their gaiety !

They scarce can swallow their ebullient spleen,  
 Scarce muster patience to support the farce,  
 And pump sad laughter, till the curtain falls.  
 Scarce, did I say ? some cannot fit it out ;  
 Oft their own daring hands the curtain draw,  
 And shew us *what* their joy, by their despair.

The clotted hair ! gor'd breast ! blaspheming eye !  
 Its impious fury still alive in death !—  
 Shut, shut the shocking scene.—But Heav'n denies  
 A cover to such guilt ; and so should man.  
 Look round, LORENZO ! see the reeking blade ;  
 Th' invenom'd phial, and the fatal ball ;  
 The strangling cord, and suffocating stream ;  
 The loathsome rotteness, and foul decays  
 From raging riot (flower suicides !)  
 And pride in these, more execrable still !—  
 How horrid all to thought !—But horrors, these,  
 That vouch the truth ; and aid my feeble song.

From *vice, sense, fancy*, no man can be blest :  
 Bliss is too great, to lodge within an hour :  
 When an immortal being aims at bliss,

Duration is essential to the name.

O for a joy from *reason*! joy from that,  
Which makes man, *man*; and, exercis'd aright,  
Will make him *more*: a bounteous joy! that gives,  
And promises; that weaves, with art divine,  
The richest prospect into present peace:

A joy *ambitious*! joy in common held  
With thrones ethereal, and their Greater far:  
A joy high-privileg'd from chance, time, death!  
A joy, which *death* shall double! *judgment*, crown  
Crown'd higher, and still higher, at each stage,  
Thro' blest eternity's long day; yet still,  
Not more remote from *sorrow*, than from *Him*,  
Whose lavish hand, whose love stupendous, pours  
So much of deity on guilty dust.

*There*, O my LUCIA! may I meet thee there,  
Where not thy presence can improve my bliss!

Affects not this the *sages of the world*?

Can nought affect them, but what feels them too?  
Eternity, depending on an hour,  
Makes serious thought man's wisdom, joy, and praise.  
Nor need you blush (tho' sometimes your designs  
May shun the light) at your designs on Heaven;  
Sole point! where over-bashful is your blame.  
Are you not wise?—You know you are: yet hear  
One truth, amid your num'rous schemes, mislaid,  
Or overlook'd, or thrown aside, if seen;  
“ Our schemes to plan by *this* world, or the *next*,  
“ Is the sole diff'rence between wise, and fool.”

All

All *worthy men* will weigh you in this scale;  
 What wonder, then, if they pronounce you *light*?  
 Is their esteem alone not worth your care?  
 Accept my simple scheme of *Common-Sense*;  
 Thus, save your fame, and make two worlds your own.

The world *replies* not:—but the world *persists*;  
 And puts the *cause* off to the longest day,  
 Planning evasions for the day of doom.  
 So far, at that *re-hearing*, from redress,  
 They then turn *witnesses* against themselves.  
 Hear that, LORENZO! nor be wise to-morrow.  
 Haste, haste! a man, by nature, is in haste;  
 For who shall answer for another hour?  
 'Tis highly prudent, to make *one* sure friend;  
 And that thou canst not do, this side the skies.

Ye sons of earth! (nor *willing* to be more!)  
 Since *verse* you think from priestcraft somewhat free,  
 Thus, in an age so gay, the muse plain truths  
 (Truths, which, at church, you *might* have heard  
 in prose)

Has ventur'd into light; well-pleas'd the *verse*  
 Should be forgot, if you the truths retain;  
 And crown her with your welfare, not your praise.  
 But *praise* she need not fear: I see my fate;  
 And headlong leap, like CURTIUS, down the gulph.

Since many an ample *volume*, mighty *tome*,

Must die ; and die unwept ; O thou minute,  
 Devoted page ! go forth among thy foes ;  
 Go, nobly proud of martyrdom for truth,  
 And die a double death : mankind, incens'd,  
 Denies thee long to live : nor shalt thou rest,  
 When thou art dead ; in *Stygian* shades arraign'd  
 By **LUCIFER**, as traitor to his throne ;  
 And bold blasphemer of his friend,—THE WORLD ;  
 The WORLD, whose legions cost him slender pay,  
 And volunteers, around h's banner swarm ;  
 Prudent, as PRUSSIA, in her zeal for GAUL.

"Are all, then, fools?" LORENZO cries—Yes,  
 all,

But such as hold *this* doctrine (new to thee) ;  
 "The mother of true wisdom is the *will* ;"  
 'The noblest *intellect*, a fool without it.

*World-wisdom* much has done, and more may do,  
 In arts and sciences, in wars, and peace ;  
 But art and science, like thy wealth, will leave thee,  
 And make thee twice a beggar at thy death.

*This* is the *most* indulgence can afford ;—

"*Thy wisdom all can do, but—make thee wise.*"  
 Nor think this censure is severe on thee ;  
*Satan*, thy master, I dare call a dunce.

NIGHT the NINTH and LAST.

THE  
CONSOLATION.

Containing, among other Things,

- I. A Moral Survey of the Nocturnal Heavens.
  - II. A Night-ADDRESS to the DEITY.
- 

HUMBLY INSCRIBED

To His GRACE the DUKE of NEWCASTLE,  
One of His Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State.

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—*Fatis Contraria Fata rependens.* VIRG.

---

**A**S when a traveller, a long day past  
In painful search of what he cannot find,  
At night's approach, content with the next cot,  
There ruminates, awhile, his labour lost ;  
Then chears his heart with what his fate affords,  
And chants his sonnet to deceive the time,  
Till the due season calls him to repose :—  
Thus I, long-travell'd in the ways of men,  
And dancing, with the rest, the giddy maze,  
Where disappointment smiles at hope's career ;

Warn'd by the languor of life's ev'ning ray,  
 At length have hous'd me in an humble shed ;  
 Where, future wand'ring banish'd from my  
 thought,

And waiting, patient, the sweet hour of rest,  
 I chase the moments with a serious song.

Song sooths our pains ; and age has pains to sooth.  
 When age, care, crime, and friends embrac'd  
 at heart,

[shade,  
 Torn from my bleeding breast, and *Death's* dark  
 Which hovers o'er me, quench th' ethereal fire ;  
 Canst thou, O *Night !* indulge one labour more ?  
 One labour more indulge ! then sleep, my strain !  
 Till, haply, wak'd by *RAPHAEL*'s golden lyre,  
 Where night, death, age, care, crime, and sorrow,  
 To bear a part in everlasting lays ; [cease ;  
 Tho' far, far higher set, in aim, I trust,  
 Symphonious to this humble prelude here.

Has not the muse asserted *pleasures pure*,  
 Like those above ; exploding other joys ?  
 Weigh what was urg'd, *LORENZO !* fairly weigh ;  
 And tell me, hast thou cause to triumph still ?  
 I think, thou wilt forbear a boast so bold,  
 But if, beneath the favour of mistake,  
 Thy smile's sincere ; not more sincere can be  
*LORENZO*'s smile, than my compassion for him.  
 The sick in *body* call for aid ; the sick  
 In *mind* are covetous of more disease ; [well.  
 And when at *worst*, they dream themselves quite

To

To know ourselves diseas'd, is half our cure.  
When nature's blush by *custom* is wip'd off,  
And conscience, deaden'd by repeated strokes,  
Has into *manners* naturaliz'd our *crimes* ;  
The curse of curses is, our curse to love ;  
To triumph in the blackness of our guilt  
(As Indians glory in the deepest jet) ;  
And throw aside our *senses* with our *peace*.

But, grant no guilt, no shame, no least alloy ;  
Grant joy and glory, quite unsully'd, shone ;  
Yet, still, it ill deserves LORENZO's heart.  
No joy, no glory, glitters in thy sight,  
But, thro' the thin partition of an hour,  
I see its fables wove by *destiny* ;  
And *that* in sorrow bury'd ; *this*, in shame ;  
While howling *faries* ring the doleful knell ;  
And *conscience*, now so soft thou scarce canst hear  
Her whisper, echoes her eternal peal.

Where, the prime actors of the *last year's scenes* ;  
Their port so proud, their buskin, and their plume ?  
How many *sleep*, who kept the world *awake*  
With lustre, and with noise ! Has *death* proclaim'd  
A truce, and hung his fated lance on high ?  
'Tis brandish'd still ; nor shall the *present year*  
Be more tenacious of her human leaf,  
Or spread of feeble life a thinner fall.

But needless *monuments* to wake the thought ;  
Life's *gayest* scenes speak man's mortality ;  
Tho' in a style more florid, fall as plain,

*As Mausoleums, pyramids, and tombs.*

What are our noblest ornaments, but *deaths*  
 Turn'd flatterers of life, in paint, or marble,  
 The well stain'd canvas, or the featur'd stone ?  
 Our fathers grace, or rather haunt, the scene ;  
*Zy peoples her pavilion from the dead.*

" *Profest diversions ! cannot these escape ?*"—  
 Far from it : these present us with a shroud ;  
 And talk of *death*, like garlands o'er a grave.  
 As some bold plunderers, for bury'd *wealth*,  
 We ransack tombs for *pastime* ; from the dust  
 Call up the sleeping hero ; bid him tread  
 'The scene for our amusement : How like gods  
 We sit ; and, wrapt in immortality,  
 Shed gen'rous tears on wretches born to die ;  
*Their fate deploring, to forget our own !*

What, all the pomps and triumphs of our lives,  
 But legacies in blossom ? Our lean soil,  
 Luxuriant grown, and rank in vanities,  
 From friends interr'd beneath ; a rich manure !  
 Like other worms, we banquet on the dead ;  
 Like other worms, shall we crawl on, nor know  
 Our present frailties, or approaching fate ?

**LORENZO !** such the glories of the world !  
 What is the world itself ? *thy* world ?—A grave.  
 Where is the dust that has not been alive ?  
 The spade, the plough, disturb our ancestors ;  
 From human mould we reap our daily bread.  
 The globe around earth's hollow surface shakes,

And

And is the ceiling of her sleeping sons,  
O'er devastation we blind revels keep ;  
Whole bury'd towns support the dancer's heel.  
The *moist* of human frame the sun exhales ;  
Winds scatter, thro' the mighty void, the *dry* ;  
Earth repossesses part of what she gave ;  
And the freed spirit mounts on wings of fire :  
Each element partakes our scatter'd spoils ;  
As nature, wide, our ruins spread ; man's *death*  
Inhabits all things, but the thought of man.

Nor man alone ; his breathing bust expires,  
His tomb is mortal ; empires die : Where, now,  
The *Roman*? *Greek*? They stalk, an empty name !  
Yet few regard them in this useful light ;  
Tho' half our learning is *their* epitaph. [thought,  
When down thy vale, unlock'd by midnight  
That loves to wander in thy sunless realms,  
*O Death!* I stretch my view ; what visions rise !  
What triumphs ! toils imperial ! arts divine !  
In wither'd laurels glide before my sight ?  
What lengths of far-fam'd ages, billow'd-high  
With human agitation, roll along  
In unsubstantial images of air !  
The melancholy ghosts of dead renown,  
Whisp'ring faint echoes of the world's applause,  
With penitential aspect, as they pass,  
All point at earth, and hiss at human pride,  
The wisdom of the *wise*, and prancings of the *great*.  
But, O LORENZO ! far the rest above,

Of ghastly nature, and enormous size,  
 One form assaults my sight, and chills my blood,  
 And shakes my frame. Of one departed world  
 I see the mighty shadow; oozy wreath  
 And dismal sea-weed crown her; o'er her urn  
 Reclin'd, she weeps her desolated realms,  
 And bloated sons; and, weeping, prophesies  
*Another's* dissolution, soon, in flames.  
 But, like CASSANDRA, prophesies in vain;  
 In vain, to many; not, I trust, to thee.

For, know'it thou not, or art thou *loth* to know,  
 The great decree, the counsel of the skies?  
*Deluge* and *conflagration*, dreadful powers?  
 Prime ministers of vengeance! Chain'd in caves  
 Distinct, apart the giant furies roar;  
 Apart; or such their horrid rage for ruin,  
 In mutual conflict would they rise, and wage  
 Eternal war, till one was quite devour'd.  
 But not for *this*, ordain'd their boundless rage;  
 When Heav'n's inferior instruments of wrath,  
*War, famine, pestilence*, are found too weak  
 To scourge a world for her enormous crimes,  
*These* are let loose, alternate: down they rush,  
 Swift and tempestuous, from th' eternal throne,  
 With irresistible commission arm'd,  
 The world, in vain corrected, to destroy,  
 And ease creation of the shocking scene.  
 Seest thou, L RENZO! what depends on man?  
 The *fat'e* of nature; as for man, her birth.

Earth's actors change earth's transitory scenes,  
And make creation groan with human guilt.  
How must it groan, in a new deluge whelm'd,  
But not of waters! At the destin'd hour,  
By the loud trumpet summon'd to the charge,  
See, all the formidable sons of fire,  
Eruptions, earthquakes, comets, lightnings, play  
Their various engines; all at once disgorge  
Their blazing magazines; and take, by storm,  
This poor terrestrial citadel of man.

Amazing period! when each mountain-height  
O'er-burns *Vesuvius*; rocks eternal pour  
Their melted mafs, as rivers once they pour'd;  
Stars rush; and final *ruin* fiercely drives  
Her ploughshare o'er creation!—While aloft,  
More than astonishment! if more can be!  
Far other *firmament* than e'er was seen,  
Than e'er was thought by man! far other *stars*!  
Stars animate, that govern these of fire;  
Far other *Sun*!—A Sun, O how unlike  
The babe at *Bethle'm*! how unlike the Man  
That groan'd on *Calvary*!—Yet *He* it is; [pomp]  
That Man of sorrows! O how chang'd! what  
In grandeur terrible, all heay'n descends!  
And gods, ambitious, triumph in his train.  
A swift archangel, with his golden wing,  
As blots and clouds, that darken and disgrace  
The scene divine, sweeps stars and suns aside.  
And now, all dross remov'd, Heav'n's own pure  
day,

Full

Full on the confines of our æther, flames.  
 While (dreadful contrast!) far, how far beneath  
 Hell bursting, belches forth her blazing seas,  
 And storms sulphureous; her voracious jaws  
 Expanding wide, and roaring for her prey.

LORENZO! welcome to this scene; the last  
 In nature's course; the first in wisdom's thought.  
*This* strikes, if aught can strike thee; *this* awakes  
 The most supine; *this* snatches man from death.  
 Rouse, rouse, LORENZO, then, and follow me,  
 Where truth, the most momentous man can hear,  
 Loud calls my soul, and ardor wings her flight.  
 I find my inspiration in my theme:  
 The grandeur of my subject is my muse.

At midnight, when mankind is wrapt in *peace*,  
 And worldly *fancy* feeds on golden dreams;  
 To give more dread to man's most dreadful hour,  
 At midnight, 'tis presum'd, this pomp will burst  
 From tenfold darkness; sudden, as the spark  
 From smitten steel; from nitrous grain, the blaze.  
 Man, starting from his couch, shall sleep no more!  
 The day is broke, which never more shall close!  
 Above, around, beneath, amazement all!  
 Terror and glory join'd in their extremes!  
 Our **GOD** in grandeur, and our *world* on fire!  
 All nature struggling in the pangs of death!  
 Dost thou not hear her? dost thou not deplore  
 Her strong convulsions, and her final groan?  
 Where are we *now*? Ah me! the ground is gone,

On

On which we stood, LORENZO! While thou mayst,  
Provide more firm support, or sink for ever!  
Where? how? from whence? Vain hope! it is  
too late!

Where, where, for shelter, shall the guilty fly,  
When consternation turns the *good man* pale?

Great day! for which all other days were made;  
For which *earth* rose from *chaos*; *man* from *earth*;  
And an eternity, the date of gods,  
Descended on poor earth-created man!

Great day of dread, decision, and despair!

At thought of thee, each sublunary wish  
Lets go its eager grasp, and drops the world;  
And catches at each reed of hope in heaven.

At thought of thee!—And art thou *absent* then?

LORENZO! No; 'tis here;—it is begun;  
Already is begun the grand assize,  
In thee, in all: Deputed Conscience scales  
The dread tribunal, and foretells our doom;  
Foretells; and, by foretelling, proves it *sure*.  
Why on himself should man *void* judgment pass?  
Is idle *nature* laughing at her sons?  
Who *conscience* sent, her sentence will support,  
And GOD above assert that GOD in man.

Thrice happy they! that enter *now* the court  
Heav'n opens in their bosoms: but, how rare,  
Ah me! that magnanimity, how rare!  
What hero, like the man who stands himself;  
Who dares to meet his naked heart alone;

Who

Who hears, intrepid, the full charge it brings, I see t  
 Resolv'd to silence future murmurs there? The v  
 The coward flies; and, flying, is undone. A su  
 (Art thou a coward? No): The coward flies; No p  
 Thinks, but thinks lightly; asks, but fears to know. The  
 Asks, "What is truth?" with PILATE; an For  
 retires; Incx

Dissolves the court, and mingles with the throng. N  
 Asylum sad! from reason, hope, and heav'n! From

Shall all, but man, look out with ardent eye, And  
 For that great day, which was ordain'd for man Rec  
 O day of consummation! mark supreme All  
 (If men are wise) of human thought! nor least, Lik  
 Or in the sight of angels, or their KING! His  
 Angels, whose radiant circles, height o'er height Am  
 Order o'er order, rising, blaze o'er blaze,  
 As in a theatre, surround this scene, An  
 Intent on man, and anxious for his fate. T  
 Angels look out for thee, for thee, their LORD, In  
 To vindicate his glory; and for thee, A  
 Creation universal calls aloud, Ss  
 To dif involve the moral world, and give G  
 To nature's renovation brighter charms. C

Shall man alone, whose fate, whose final fate,  
 Hangs on that hour, ex. lude it from his thought.  
 I think of nothing else; I see! I feel it!  
 All nature, like an earthquake, trembling round  
 All deities, like summer's swarms, on wing!  
 All basking in the full meridian blaze!

I se

I see the JUDGE inthron'd ! the flaming guard !  
The volume open'd ! open'd every heart !  
A sun-beam pointing out each secret thought !  
No patron ! intercessor none ! now past  
The sweet, the clement, mediatorial hour !  
For guilt no plea ! To pain, no pause ! no bound !  
Inexorable, all ! and all, extreme !  
Nor man alone ; the foe of GOD and man,  
From his dark den, blaspheming, drags his chain,  
And rears his brazen front, with thunder scarr'd ;  
Receives his sentence, and begins his hell.  
All vengeance past, now, seems abundant grace :  
Like meteors in a floriny sky, how roll  
His baleful eyes ! he curses whom he dreads ;  
And deems it the first moment of his fall.  
*'Tis present to my thought !—And, yet, where  
Angels can't tell me ; angels cannot guess [is it ?  
The period ; from created beings lock'd  
In darkness. But the process, and the place,  
Are less obscure ; for these may man inquire.  
Say, thou great Close of human hopes and fears !  
Great Key of hearts ! great Finisher of fates !  
Great End ! and great Beginning ! say, where art  
Art thou in time, or in eternity ? [thou ?  
Nor in eternity, nor time, I find thee.  
These, as two monarchs, on their borders meet,  
(Monarchs of all elap'd, or unarriv'd !)  
As in debate, how best their pow'rs ally'd,*

May

May swell the grandeur, or discharge the wrath  
Of HIM, whom both their monarchies obey.

Time, this vast fabric for him built (and doom'd  
With him to fall!) now bursting o'er his head ;  
His lamp, the sun, extinguish'd ; from beneath  
The frown of hideous darkness, calls his sons  
From their long slumber ; from earth's heaving  
To second birth; contemporary throng ! [womb,  
Rous'd at one call, upstarting from one bed,  
Prest in one crowd, appall'd with one amaze,  
He turns them o'er, *Eternity ! to thee.*

Then (as a king depos'd disdains to live)  
He falls on his own scythe ; nor falls alone ;  
His greatest foe falls with him ; Time, and he  
Who murder'd all time's offspring, Death, expire.

'TIME was ! ETERNITY now reigns alone !  
Awful eternity ! offended queen !  
And her resentment to mankind, how just !  
With kind intent soliciting access,  
How often has she knock'd at human hearts !  
Rich to repay their hospitality,  
How often call'd ! and with the voice of GOD !  
Yet bore repulse, excluded as a cheat !

A dream ! while foulest foes found welcome there !  
A dream, a cheat, now, all things, but her simile.

For, lo ! her twice ten thousand gates thrown  
As thrice from Indus to the frozen pole, [wide,  
With banners, streaming as the comet's blaze,  
And clarions, louder than the deep in storms,

Sonorously,

Sonorous, as immortal breath can blow,  
Pour forth their myriads, potentates, and powers,  
Of light, of darkness; in a middle field,  
Wide, as *creation!* populous, as wide!  
A neutral region! there to mark th' event  
Of that great drama, whose preceding scenes  
Detain'd them close spectators, thro' a length  
Of ages, rip'ning to this grand result;  
Ages, as yet unnumber'd, but by GOD;  
Who now, pronouncing sentence, vindicates  
The rights of virtue, and his own renown.

ETERNITY, the various sentence past,  
Assigns the sever'd throng distinct abodes,  
Sulphureous, or ambrosial: What ensues?  
The deed predominant! the deed of deeds!  
Which makes a hell of hell, a heav'n of heav'n.  
The goddess, with determin'd aspect, turns  
Her adamantine key's enormous size  
Thro' destiny's inextricable wards,  
Deep-driving ev'ry bolt, on both their fates.  
Then, from the crystal battlements of heaven,  
Down, down, she hurls it thro' the dark profound,  
Ten thousand thousand fathom; there to rust,  
And ne'er unlock her resolution more.  
The deep resounds, and hell, thro' all her glooms,  
Returns, in groans, the melancholy roar.

O how unlike the chorus of the skies!  
Q how unlike those shouts of joy, that shake  
The whole *ethereal!* How the concave rings!

Nor strange! when deities their voice exalt ;  
 And louder far, than when *creation* rose,  
 To see *creation's* godlike aim, and end,  
 So well accomplish'd ! so divinely clos'd !  
 To see the mighty *dramatist's* last act  
 (As meet) in glory rising o'er the rest.  
 No fansy'd GOD, a GOD *indeed*, descends,  
 To solve all *knots*; to strike the *moral* home;  
 To throw full day on darkest scenes of *time*;  
 To clear, commend, exalt, and crown, the whole.  
 Hence, in one peal of loud, eternal praise,  
 The charm'd spectators thunder their applause;  
 And the vast void beyond, applause resounds.

## WHAT THEN AM I? —

Amidst applauding worlds,  
 And worlds celestial, is there found on earth,  
 A peevish, dissonant, rebellious string,  
 Which jars in the grand chorus, and *complains*?  
*Censure* on thee, LORENZO, I suspend,  
 And turn it on *myself*; how greatly due!  
 All, all is *right*, by GOD ordain'd, or done;  
 And who, but GOD, resum'd the friends *He* gave?  
 And have I been *complaining*, then, so long?  
*Complaining* of his *favours*; *Pain*, and *Death*?  
 Who, without *pain's* advice, would e'er be good?  
 Who, without *death*, but would be good in vain?  
*Pain* is to save from *pain*; all punishment,  
 To make for *peace*; and *death* to save from *death*.  
 And second death, to guard immortal life;

To rouse the careless, the presumptuous awe  
And turn the tide of souls another way ;  
By the same tenderness divine ordain'd,  
That planted *Eden*, and high bloom'd for man  
A fairer *Eden*, endless, in the skies.

Heav'n gives us friends to bless the *present* scene ;  
Resumes them, to prepare us for the *next*.

All evils *natural* are *moral* goods ;

All discipline, *indulgence*, on the whole.

*None* are unhappy ; *all* have cause to smile,

But such as to themselves that cause deny.

Our faults are at the bottom of our *pains* ;

Error, in *act*, or *judgment*, is the source

Of endless sighs : We *sin*, or we *mistake*,

And *nature* tax, when *false opinion* stings.

Let impious grief be banish'd, joy indulg'd ;

But chiefly *then*, when grief puts in her claim,

Joy from the *joyous*, frequently betrays,

Oft lives in vanity, and dies in woe.

Joy, amidst *ills*, corroborates, exalts ;

Tis joy, and conquest ; joy, and virtue too.

Noble fortitude in *ills* delights

Leav'n, earth, ourselves ; 'tis duty, glory, peace ;

Affliction is the good man's shining scene ;

Prosperity conceals his brightest ray ;

As night to stars, woe lustre gives to man.

Heroes in battle, pilots in the storm,

And virtue in calamities, admire.

The crown of manhood is a winter-joy ;

An

An ever-green, that stands the *northern* blast,  
And blossoms in the rigour of our fate.

'Tis a prinnie part of happiness, to know  
How much unhappiness *must* prove our lot ;  
A part which few possess ! I'll pay life's tax,  
Without one rebel murmur, from this hour,  
Nor think it misery to be a *man* ;  
Who thinks *it is*, shall never be a *god*.  
Some ills we wish for, when we wish to live.

What spoke *proud passion* ?—“ \* Wish my being lost ! ”  
Presumptuous ! blasphemous ! absurd ! and false  
The triumph of my soul is,—That I *am* ;  
And therefore that I *may be*—*What* ? LORENZO  
Look inward, and look deep ; and deeper still ;  
Unfathomably deep our treasure runs  
In golden veins, thro' all eternity !  
Ages, and ages, and succeeding still  
New ages, where this phantom of an hour,  
Which courts, each night, dull slumber, for repaire,  
Shall wake, and wonder, and exult, and praise,  
And fly thro' infinite, and all unlock ;  
And (if deserv'd) by Heav'n's redundant love,  
Made half-adorable itself, adore ;  
And find, in adoration, endless joy !  
Where thou, not master of a moment *here*,  
Frail as the flow'r, and fleeting as the gale,  
May'st boast a *whole eternity*, enrich'd

\* Referring to the First Night.

With all a *kind Omnipotence* can pour.  
Since ADAM fell, no mortal, un-inspir'd,  
Has ever yet conceiv'd, or ever shall,  
How kind is GOD, how great (if good) is MAN.  
No man too largely from Heav'n's love can hope,  
If what is *hop'd* he labours to secure. [Thee;  
ills?—There are none: *All-gracious!* none from  
From *man* full many! num'rous is the race  
Of blackest ills, and those immortal too,  
Begot by *madness* on fair *liberty*;  
Heav'n's daughter, hell-debauch'd! *Her hand alone*  
Unlocks destruction to the sons of men,  
Fast barr'd by *thine*; high-wall'd with adamant,  
Guarded with terrors reaching to this world,  
And cover'd with the thunders of thy Law;  
Whose threats are *mercies*, whose injunctions, *guides*,  
Afflicting, not restraining, *reason's choice*;  
Whose sanctions, *unavoidable results*  
From nature's course, indulgently reveal'd;  
If unreveal'd, more dang'rous, nor less sure.  
Thus, an indulgent father warns his sons,  
“ Do this; fly that”—nor always tells the cause;  
Pleas'd to reward, as duty to his will,  
A conduct needful to their own repose.

Great GOD of wonders! (if, thy *love* survey'd,  
Aught else the name of wonderful retains)  
What *rocks* are *these*, on which to build our trust!  
Thy ways admit no blemish; none I find;  
Or this alone—“ *That none is to be found.*”

Not one, to soften *censure's* hardy crime ;  
 Not one, to palliate peevish grief's COMPLAINT  
 Who, like a *demon*, murmur'ring from the dust,  
 Dares into judgment call her Judge.—SUPREME  
 For all I bless thee ; most, for the severe ;  
 \* Her death—*my own* at hand—the fiery gulph,  
 That flaming bound of wrath omnipotent !  
 It thunders ;—but it thunders to preserve ;  
 It strengthens what it strikes ; its wholesome dread  
 Averts the dreaded pain ; its hideous groans  
 Join Heav'n's sweet hallelujahs in thy praise,  
 Great Source of good alone ! how kind in all !  
 In vengeance kind ! Pain, death, gehenna, SAVE

Thus, in thy world material, mighty Mind !  
 Not that alone which solaces, and shines,  
 The rough and gloomy, challenges our praise.  
 The winter is as needful as the spring ;  
 The thunder, as the sun ; a stagnate mass  
 Of vapours breeds a pestilential air ;  
 Nor more propitious the Favonian breeze  
 To nature's health, than purifying storms ;  
 The dread volcano ministers to good.  
 Its smother'd flames might undermine the world,  
 Loud *Ætnas* fulminate in love to man ;  
 Comets good omens are, when duly scann'd ;  
 And, in their use, Eclipses learn to shine.

Man is responsible for ills receiv'd ;  
 Those we call wretched are a chosen band,

\* LUCIA.

Compell'd

Compell'd to refuge in the *right*, for peace.  
Amid my list of blessings infinite,  
Stand this the foremost, “*That my heart has bled.*”  
’Tis Heav’n’s last effort of good-will to man :  
When *pain* can’t bless, Heav’n quits us in despair.  
Who fails to grieve, when just occasion calls,  
Or grieves too much, deserves not to be blest ;  
Inhuman, or effeminate, his heart ;  
*Reason* absolves the grief, which *reason* ends.  
May Heav’n ne’er trust my friend with happiness,  
Till it has taught him how to bear it well,  
By previous pain ; and made it *safe* to *smile* !  
Such smiles are mine, and such may they remain ;  
Nor hazard their extinction, from excess.  
My change of *heart* a change of *style* demands ;  
The CONSOLATION cancels the COMPLAINT,  
And makes a convert of my guilty song.

As when o’er-labour’d, and inclin’d to breathe,  
A panting traveller, some rising ground,  
Some small ascent, has gain’d, he turns him round,  
And measures with his eye the various vale,  
The fields, woods, meads, and rivers he has past ;  
And, satiate of his journey, thinks of home,  
Endear’d by distance, nor affects more toil ;  
Thus I, though small, indeed, is that ascent  
The muse has gain’d, review the paths she trod ;  
Various, extensive, beaten but by few ;  
And, conscious of her prudence in repose,  
Pause ; and with pleasure meditate an end,

Though still remote; so fruitful is my theme,  
 Thro' many a field of moral, and divine,  
 The muse has stray'd; and much of sorrow seen  
 In human ways; and much of false and vain;  
 Which none, who travel this bad road, can miss.  
*O'er friends deceas'd full heartily she wept;*  
*Of Love divine the wonders she display'd;*  
*Prov'd man immortal; shew'd the source of joy;*  
*The grand tribunal rais'd; assign'd the bounds*  
*Of human grief: in few, to close the whole,*  
*The moral muse has shadow'd out a sketch,*  
*Though not in form, nor with a RAPHAEL-stroke;*  
*Of most our weakness needs believe, or do,*  
*In this our land of travel, and of hope,*  
*For peace on earth, or prospect of the skies.* [deb]

What then remains?—Much! much! a might  
 'To be discharg'd: These thoughts, O NIGHT!  
 are thine;

From thee they came, like lovers secret sighs,  
 While others slept. So, CYNTHIA (poets feign)  
 In shadows veil'd, soft-sliding from her sphere,  
 Her shepherd chear'd; of her enamour'd less,  
 Than I of thee.—And art thou still unsung,  
 Beneath whose brow, and by whose aid, I sing?  
 Immortal Silence!—Where shall I begin?  
 Where end? Or how steal music from the spheres  
 To sooth their goddess?

O majestic NIGHT!  
 Nature's great ancestor! Day's elder-born!

And fated to survive the transient sun !  
 By mortals, and immortals, seen with awe !  
 A stately crown thy raven brow adorns,  
 An azure zone, thy waist ; clouds, in heav'n's  
 loom

Wrought thro' varieties of shape and shade,  
 In ample folds of drapery divine,  
 Thy flowing mantle form, and, heav'n throughout,  
 Voluminously pour thy pompous train.  
 Thy gloomy grandeurs (*nature's* most august,  
 Inspiring aspect !) claim a grateful verse ;  
 And, like a sable curtain starr'd with gold,  
 Drawn o'er my labours past, shall close the scene.

And what, O man ! so worthy to be sung ?  
 What more prepares us for the songs of heaven ?  
*Creation* of archangels is the theme !  
 What, to be sung, so needful ? What so well  
 Celestial joys prepare us to sustain ?  
 The soul of man, HIS face design'd to see,  
*Who* gave these wonders to be seen by man,  
 Has here a previous scene of objects great,  
 On which to dwell ; to stretch to that expanse  
 Of thought, to rise to that exalted height  
 Of admiration, to contract that awe,  
 And give her whole capacities that strength,  
 Which best may qualify for final joy.  
 The more our spirits are enlarg'd on earth,  
 The deeper draught shall they receive of heaven.

Heav'n's KING ! whose face unveil'd con-  
summates bliss :

Redundant bliss ! which fills that mighty void,  
The whole creation leaves in human hearts !  
THOU, who didst touch the lip of JESSE's son,  
Wrapt in sweet contemplation of these fires,  
And set his harp in concert with the spheres !  
While of thy works *material* the supreme  
I dare attempt, assist my daring song.

Loose me from *earth's* inclosure, from the *sun's*  
*Contracted* circle set my heart at large ;  
Eliminate my spirit, give it range  
Through provinces of thought yet unexplor'd ;  
Teach me, by this stupendous scaffolding,  
Creation's golden steps, to climb to THEE.  
Teach me with *art* great *nature* to controul,  
And spread a lustre o'er the shades of *night*.  
Feel I thy kind assent ? And shall the *sun*  
Be seen at *midnight*, rising in my song ? [heart,

LORENZO ! come, and warm thee : Thou, whose  
Whose *little* heart, is moor'd within a nook  
Of this obscure terrestrial, anchor weigh.  
Another ocean calls, a *nobler* port ;  
I am thy pilot, I thy prosp'r'ous gale.  
Gainful thy voyage through yon azure main ;  
Main, without tempest, pirate, rock, or shore ;  
And whence thou may'st import *eternal* wealth ;  
And leave to beggar'd minds the *pearl* and *gold*.  
Thy travels dost thou boast o'er foreign realms ?

Thou

Thou *stranger* to the *world!* thy tour begin;  
Thy tour through *nature's* universal orb.  
*Nature* delineates her whole chart at large,  
On soaring sculs, that sail among the spheres;  
And *man* how purblind, if unknown the whole!  
Who circles spacious *earth*, then travels *here*,  
Shall own, he never was from *home* before!  
Come, my \* PROMETHEUS, from thy pointed rock  
Of *false* ambition if unchain'd, we'll mount;  
We'll, *innocently*, steal celestial fire,  
And kindle our devotion at the *stars*;  
A theft, that shall not chain, but set thee free.  
Above our atmosphere's intestine wars,  
Rain's fountain-head, the magazine of hail,  
Above the northern nests of feather'd snows,  
The brew of thunders, and the flaming forge  
That forms the crooked lightning; 'bove the caves  
Where infant tempests wait their growing wings,  
And tune their tender voices to that roar,  
Which, soon perhaps, shall shake a guilty world;  
Above misconstru'd omens of the sky,  
Far-travell'd comet's calculated blaze,  
Elance thy thought, and think of *more* than *man*.  
Thy soul, till now, contracted, wither'd, shrunk,  
Blighted by blasts of *earth's* unwholsome air,  
Will blossom *here*; spread all her faculties  
To these bright ardors; ev'ry pow'r unfold,  
And rise into sublimities of thought.

\* Night the Eighth.

O 4

Stars

Stars teach, as well as *shine*. At nature's birth,  
*Thus*, their commission ran—"Be kind to *man*."  
 Where art thou, poor benighted traveller!  
 The *stars* will light thee; tho' the *moon* should fail.  
 Where art thou, more benighted! more astray!  
 In ways immoral? The *stars* call thee back;  
 And, if obey'd their counsel, set thee right.

This prospect vast, what is it?—Weigh'd aright,  
 'Tis nature's system of divinity,  
 And ev'ry student of the *Night* inspires.  
 'Tis elder scripture, writ by GOD's own hand;  
 Scripture authentic! uncorrupt by man.  
 LORENZO! with my *radius* (the rich gift  
 Of thought nocturnal!) I'll point out to thee  
 Its various lessons; some that may surprise  
 An un-adept in mysteries of *NIGHT*;  
 Little, perhaps, expected in *her* school,  
 Nor thought to grow on planet, or on star.  
 Bulls, lions, scorpions, monsters here we feign;  
 Ourselves more monstrous, not to see what here  
 Exists indeed;—a lecture to mankind.

What read we *bere*?—Th' existence of a GOD?—  
 Yes; and of other beings, man above;  
 Natives of *aether*! sons of higher climes!  
 And, what may move LORENZO's wonder more,  
 ETERNITY is written in the skies.  
 And whose eternity?—LORENZO! *thine*;  
 Mankind's eternity. Nor FAITH alone,  
 VIRTUE grows here; *bere* springs the sov'reign cure  
 Of

Of almost ev'ry vice ; but chiefly *thine* ;  
*Wrath, pride, ambition, and impure desire.*

LORENZO ! thou canst wake at midnight too,  
Tho' not on *morals* bent : *Ambition, pleasure !*  
Those tyrants I for thee so \* lately fought,  
Afford their haras'd slaves but slender rest.  
*Thou*, to whom midnight is *immoral noon*,  
And the sun's noon-tide blaze, prime dawn of day ;  
Not by thy climate, but capricious crime,  
Commencing one of our *antipodes* !

In thy nocturnal rove, one moment halt,  
'Twixt stage and stage, of riot, and cabal ;  
And lift thine eye (if bold an eye to lift,  
If bold to meet the face of injur'd Heaven)  
To yonder stars : for other ends they shine,  
Than to light revellers from shame to shame,  
And, thus, be made accomplices in guilt.

Why from yon arch, that infinite of space,  
With infinite of lucid orbs replete,  
Which set the living firmament on fire,  
At the first glance, in such an overwhelm  
Of wonderful, on man's astonish'd sight,  
Rushes OMNIPOTENCE ?—To curb our *pride* ;  
Our *reason* rouse, and lead it to that Power,  
Whose love lets down these silver chains of light ;  
To draw up man's *ambition* to *Himself*,  
And bind our *chaste affections* to his throne.  
Thus the three virtues, least alive on earth,

\* Night the Eighth.

And welcom'd on Heav'n's coast with most applause,  
An humble, pure, and heav'nly-minded heart,  
Are here inspir'd:—And canst thou gaze too long?

Nor stands thy *wrath* depriv'd of its reproof,  
Or un-upbraided by this radiant choir.  
The planets of each system represent  
Kind neighbours; mutual amity prevails;  
Sweet interchange of rays, receiv'd, return'd;  
Enlight'ning, and enlighten'd! All, at once,  
Attracting, and attracted! Patriot-like,  
None sins against the welfare of the whole;  
But their reciprocal, unselfish aid,  
Affords an emblem of *millennial* love.  
Nothing in nature, much less *conscious* being,  
Was e'er created solely for itself:  
Thus man his *sou'reign* duty learns in this  
*Material* picture of benevolence.

And know, of all our supercilious race,  
Thou most inflammable! thou wasp of men!  
Man's angry heart, *inspected*, would be found  
As rightly set, as are the starry spheres;  
'Tis *nature's* structure, broke by stubborn *will*,  
Breeds all that un-celestial discord *there*.  
Wilt thou not feel the bias *nature* gave?  
Canst thou descend from converse with the skies,  
And seize thy brother's throat?—For what?—a *clod*,  
An inch of *earth*? The *planets* cry, “*Forbear.*”  
They chase our double darkness; *nature's* gloom,  
And (*kinder* still!) our *intellectual* night. And

And see, *Day's* amiable sister sends  
Her invitation, in the softest rays  
Of mitigated lustre; courts thy sight,  
Which suffers from her tyrant-brother's blaze.  
*Night* grants thee the full freedom of the skies,  
Nor rudely reprimands thy lifted eye;  
With *gain*, and *joy*, she bribes thee to be wise.  
*Night* opes the noblest scenes, and sheds an awe,  
Which gives those venerable scenes full weight,  
And deep reception, in th' intender'd heart;  
While light peeps thro' the darkness, like a spy;  
And darkness shews its grandeur by the light.  
Nor is the *profit* greater than the *joy*,  
If human hearts at glorious objects glow,  
And admiration can inspire delight.

What speak I more, than I, this moment, feel?  
With pleasing stupor first the soul is struck:  
(Stupor ordain'd to make her truly wise!)  
Then into transport starting from her trance,  
With love, and admiration, how she glows!  
This gorgeous apparatus! this display!  
This ostentation of creative power!  
This theatre!—what eye can take it in?  
By what divine enchantment was it rais'd,  
For minds of the first magnitude to launch  
In endless speculation, and adore?  
*One* sun by day, by night *ten thousand* shine;  
And light us deep into the DEITY;  
How boundless in magnificence and might!

O 6

O what

O what a confluence of ethereal fires,  
 From urns un-number'd, down the steep of heaven,  
 Streams to a point, and centres in my sight !  
 Nor tarries there ; I feel it at my heart.  
 My heart, at once, it humbles, and exalts ;  
 Lays it in dust, and calls it to the skies.  
 Who sees it, unexalted, or unaw'd ?  
 Who sees it, and can stop at what is seen ?  
 Material offspring of OMNIPOTENCE !  
 Inanimate, all-animating birth !  
 Work worthy *Him* who made it ! Worthy praise !  
 All praise ! praise more than human ! nor deny'd  
 Thy praise divine !—But tho' man, drown'd in  
 Sleep,  
 With-holds his homage, not *alone* I wake ;  
 Bright legions swarm unseen, and sing, unheard  
 By mortal ear, the glorious Architect,  
 In this his universal temple, hung  
 With lustres, with innumerable lights,  
 That shed religion on the soul ; at once,  
 'The temple, and the preacher ! O how loud  
 It calls devotion ! genuine growth of *Night* !  
 Devotion ! daughter of astronomy !  
 An undevout astronomer is mad.  
 True; all things speak a GOD ; but in the small,  
 Men trace out Him ; in great, He seizes man ;  
 Seizes, and elevates, and raps, and fills  
 With new inquiries, 'mid associates new.  
 Tell me, ye stars ! ye planets ! tell me, all

Ye

Ye starr'd, and planeted, inhabitants! What is it?  
What are these sons of wonder? Say, proud arch!—  
(Within whose azure palaces they dwell)  
Built with divine ambition! in disdain  
Of limit built! built in the taste of Heaven!  
Vast concave! ample dome! wast thou design'd  
A meet apartment for the DEITY?—  
Not so; that thought alone thy state impairs,  
Thy *lefty* sinks, and shallows thy  *profound,*  
And freightens thy *diffusive*; dwarfs the whole,  
And makes an universe an *Orrery*.

But when I drop mine eye, and look on man,  
Thy right regain'd, thy grandeur is restor'd,  
O *nature!* wide flies off th' expanding round,  
As when whole magazines, at once, are fir'd,  
The smitten air is hollow'd by the blow;  
The vast explosion dissipates the clouds;  
Shock'd æther's billows dash the distant skies;  
Thus (but far more) th' expanding round flies off,  
And leaves a mighty void, a spacious womb,  
Might teem with new creation; re-inflam'd  
Thy luminaries triumph, and assume  
Divinity themselves. Nor was it strange,  
Matter high-wrought to such surprising pomp,  
Such godlike glory, stole the stile of gods,  
From ages dark, obtuse, and steep'd in *sense*;  
For, sure, to *sense*, they truly are divine,  
And half-absolv'd idolatry from guilt;  
Nay, turn'd it into virtue. Such it was

In those, who put forth all they had of *man*  
 Unlost, to lift their thought, nor mounted higher;  
 But, weak of wing, on planets perch'd; and  
 thought

What was their highest, must be their ador'd.

But they how *weak*, who could no higher  
 mount?

And are there, then, LORENZO! those, to whom  
 Unseen, and Unexistent, are the same?

And if incomprehensible is join'd,  
 Who dare pronounce it madnes, to *believe*?  
 Why has the mighty BUILDER thrown aside  
 All measure in his work; stretch'd out his line  
 So far, and spread amazement o'er the whole?  
 Then (as he took delight in wide extremes)  
 Deep in the bosom of his universe,  
 Dropt down that *reasoning* mite, that insect, *man*,  
 To crawl, and gaze, and wonder at the scene?—  
 That man might ne'er presume to plead amazement  
 For disbelief of wonders in *Himself*.

Shall GOD be less miraculous, than what  
 His hand has form'd? Shall *mysteries* descend  
 From *un-mysterious*? Things more elevate,  
 Be more familiar? Uncreated lie  
 More obvious than created, to the grasp  
 Of human thought? The *more* of wonderful  
 Is heard in *Him*, the *more* we should assent.  
 Could we conceive *Him*, GOD He could not be;  
 Or *He* not GOD, or we could not be *Men*.

A GOD

A GOD alone can comprehend a GOD ;  
Man's distance how immense ! on such a theme,  
Know this, LORENZO ! (seem it ne'er so strange)  
Nothing can satisfy, but what confounds ;  
Nothing, but what astonishes, is true.

The scene thou seest, attests the truth I sing,  
And ev'ry star sheds light upon thy creed.  
These stars, this furniture, this cost of Henven,  
If but reported, thou hadst ne'er believ'd ;  
But thine *eye* tellis thee, the *romance* is true.  
The grand of nature is th' Almighty's oath,  
In reason's court, to silence *unbelief*.

How my mind, op'ning at this scene, imbibes  
The moral emanations of the skies,  
While nought, perhaps, LORENZO less admires !  
Has the great Sov'reign sent ten thousand worlds  
To tell us, *He* resides above them all,  
In glory's unapproachable recess ?  
And dare earth's bold inhabitants deny  
The sumptuous, the magnific embassy  
A moment's audience ? Turn we, nor will hear  
From whom they come, or what they would  
impart  
For man's emolument ; sole cause that stoops  
Their grandeur to man's eye ? LORENZO ! rouse ;  
Let thought, awaken'd, take the lightning's wing,  
And glance from east to west, from pole to pole,  
Who sees, but is confounded, or convinc'd ?  
Renounces *Reason*, or a GOD adores ?

Mankind

Mankind was sent into the world to *see*:  
 Sight gives the science needful to their peace;  
 That obvious science asks *small* learning's aid.  
 Wouldst thou on metaphysic pinions soar?  
 Or wound thy patience amid logic thorns?  
 Or travel history's enormous round?

*Nature* no such hard task enjoins: she gave  
 A make to man directive of his thought;  
 A make set upright, pointing to the stars,  
 As who should say, "Read thy chief lesson there."  
 Too late to read this manuscript of Heaven,  
 When, like a parchment scroll, shrunk up by flames,  
 It folds LORENZO's lesson from his sight.

Lesson how various! Not the GOD alone,  
 I see his *ministers*; I see, diffus'd  
 In radiant orders, essences sublime,  
 Of various offices, of various plume,  
 In heav'nly liveries, distinctly clad,  
 Azure, green, purple, pearl, or downy gold,  
 Or all commix'd; they stand, with wings out-spread,

List'ning to catch the Master's least command,  
 And fly thro' *nature*, ere the moment ends;  
 Numbers innumerable!—Well conceiv'd  
 By *pagan*, and by *christian*! O'er each sphere  
 Presides an angel, to direct its course,  
 And feed, or fan, its flames; or to discharge  
 Other high trusts unknown. For who can see  
 Such pomp of matter, and imagine, *Mind*,

For which *alone* inanimate was made,  
More sparingly dispense'd? That nobler son,  
Far liker the great SIRE!—'Tis thus the skies  
Inform us of superiors numberless,  
As much, in *excellence*, above mankind,  
As above earth, in *magnitude*, the *spheres*.  
*These*, as a cloud of witnesses, hang o'er us;  
In a throng'd theatre are all our deeds;  
Perhaps, a thousand demigods descend  
On ev'ry beam we see, to walk with men.  
Awful reflection! strong restraint from ill!

Yet, *here*, our virtue finds still stronger aid  
From these ethereal glories *sense* surveys.  
Something, like magic, strikes from this blue vault;  
With just attention is it view'd? We feel  
A sudden succour, un-implot'd, un-thought;  
*Nature* herself does half the work of *man*.  
Seas, rivers, mountains, forests, deserts, rocks,  
The promontory's height, the depth profound  
Of subterranean, excavated grots,  
Black-brow'd, and vaulted-high, and yawning wide  
From *nature's* structure, or the scoop of *time*;  
If ample of dimension, vast of size, . . .  
Ev'n *these* an aggrandizing impulse give;  
Of solemn thought enthusiastic heights  
Ev'n *these* infuse.—But what of vast in *these*?  
Nothing;—or we must own the skies forgot.  
Much less in *art*.—Vain *art*! thou pygmy-power!  
How dost thou swell, and strut, with human pride,

To

To shew thy littleness ! What childish toys,  
 Thy watry co'unns squirted to the clouds !  
 Thy bason'd rivers, and imprison'd seas !  
 Thy mountains molded into forms of men !  
 Thy hundred-gated *capitals* ! or those  
 Where three days travel left us much to ride ;  
 Gazing on miracles by mortals wrought,  
 Arches triumphal, theatres immense,  
 Or nodding *gardens* pendent in mid-air !  
 Or temples proud to meet their GODS half-way !  
 Yet these affect us in no common kind.  
 What then the force of such superior scenes ?  
 Enter a temple, it will strike an awe :  
 What awe from this the DEITY has built ?  
 A good man seen, tho' silent, counsel gives :  
 The touch'd spectator wishes to be wise :  
 In a bright mirror his own hands have made,  
*Here* we see something like the face of GOD.  
 Seems it not then enough, to say, LORENZO !  
 To man abandon'd, "*Hast thou seen the skies?*"

And yet, so thwarted nature's kind design  
 By daring man, he makes her sacred awe  
 (That guard from ill) his shelter, his temptation  
 To more than common guilt, and quite inverts  
 Celestial art's intent. The trembling stars  
 See crimes gigantic, stalking thro' the gloom  
 With front erect, that hide their head by day,  
 And making night still *darker* by their deeds.  
 Slumb'ring in covert, till the shades descend,

*Rapine,*

Rapine, and murder, link'd, now prowl for prey.  
 The miser earths his treasure ; and the thief,  
 Watching the mole, half-beggars him ere morn.  
 Now plots, and foul conspiracies, awake ;  
 And, muffling up their horrors from the moon,  
 Havock and devastation they prepare,  
 And kingdoms tott'ring in the field of blood.  
 Now sons of riot in mid-revel rage.

What shall I do ?—suppress it ? or proclaim ?—  
 Why sleeps the thunder ? Now, LORENZO ! now,  
 His best friend's couch the rank adulterer  
 Ascends secure ; and laughs at gods and men.  
 Prepost'rous madmen, void of fear or shame,  
 Lay their crimes bare to these chaste eyes of  
 heaven ;

Yet shrink, and shudder, at a mortal's sight.  
 Were moon, and stars, for villains only made ?  
 To guide, yet screen them, with tenebrious light ?  
 No ; they were made to fashion the sublime  
 Of human hearts, and wiser make the wise.

Those ends were answer'd once ; when mortals  
 Of stronger wing, of aquiline ascent [liv'd  
 In theory sublime. O how unlike  
 Those vermin of the night, this moment sung,  
 Who crawl on earth, and on her venom feed !  
 Those antient sages, human flars ? They met  
 Their brothers of the skies, at midnight-hour ;  
 Their counsel ask'd ; and, what they ask'd, obey'd.  
 The Stagirite, and PLATO, he who drank

The

The poison'd bowl, and he of *Tusculum*,  
 With him of *Corduba*, (immortal names !)  
 In these unbounded and *Elysian* walks,  
 An area fit for *gods*, and godlike men,  
 They took their nightly round, thro' radiant paths  
 By *seraphs* trod; instructed, chiefly, thus,  
 To tread in their bright footsteps here below;  
 To walk in worth still brighter than the skies.  
*There*, they contracted their contempt of *earth*;  
 Of hopes eternal kindled, *there*, the fire;  
*There*, as in near approach, they glow'd, and grew  
 (Great visitants !) more intimate with *GOD*,  
 More worth to *men*, more joyous to *themselves*.  
 Thro' various *virtues*, they, with ardor, ran  
 The zodiac of their learn'd, illustrious lives.

In *christian* hearts, O for a *pagan* zeal!  
 A *needful*, but *opprobrious* pray'r ! As much  
 Our *ardor* less, as greater is our *light*.  
 How monstrous this in *moralis* ! Scarce more strange  
 Would this *phænomenon* in nature strike,  
 A *sun*, that froze us, or a *star*, that warm'd.

What taught these heroes of the moral world ?  
 To these thou giv'st thy *praise*, give *credit* too.  
 These doctors ne'er were pension'd to deceive thee;  
 And *pagan* tutors are thy taste.—They taught,  
*That*, Narrow views betray to misery :  
*That*, Wise it is to comprehend the whole :  
*That*, *Virtue* rose from *nature*, ponder'd well,  
 The single base of virtue built to heaven :

*That*,

That, GOD, and *nature*, our attention claim :  
That, *Nature* is the glass reflecting GOD,  
As, by the *sea*, reflected is the *sun*,  
Too glorious to be gaz'd on in his sphere :  
That, *Mind immortal* loves *immortal* aims :  
That, *Boundless mind* affects a *boundless space* :  
That, Vast survey's, and the sublime of things,  
The soul assimilate, and make her great :  
That, therefore, heav'n her glories, as a fund  
Of inspiration, thus spreads out to man.  
*Such* are their doctrines ; *such* the *Night* inspir'd.

And what more true ? What truth of greater  
weight ?

The soul of man was made to walk the skies ;  
Delightful outlet of her prison *here* !  
*There*, disincumber'd from her chains, the ties  
Of toys terrestrial, she can rove at large ;  
*There*, freely can respire, dilate, extend,  
In full proportion let loose all her powers ;  
And, *undeluded*, grasp at something great.  
Nor, as a stranger, does she wander there ;  
But, wonderful herself, thro' wonder strays ;  
Contemplating *their* grandeur, finds *her own* ;  
Dives deep in their œconomy divine,  
Sits high in judgment on their various laws,  
And, like a master, judges not amiss.  
Hence greatly pleas'd, and justly proud, the soul  
Grows conscious of her birth celestial ; breathes  
More life, more vigour, in her native air ;

And

And feels herself *at home* among the stars ;  
And, feeling, emulates her country's praise.

What call we, then, the firmament, **Lorenzo** ?—  
*As earth* the body, since, the *skies* sustain  
The soul with food, that gives immortal life,  
*Call it*, The noble pasture of the *mind* ;  
Which there expatiates, strengthens, and exults,  
And riots thro' the luxuries of thought.  
*Call it*, The garden of the **DEITY**,  
Blossom'd with stars, redundant in the growth  
Of fruit ambrosial ; *moral* fruit to man.  
*Call it*, The breast-plate of the true High-priest,  
Ardent with gems oracular, that give,  
In points of highest moment, right response ;  
And ill neglected, if we prize our peace.

Thus, have we found a *true* astrology ;  
Thus, have we found a new, and noble sense,  
In which *alone* stars govern human fates.  
O that the *stars* (as some have feign'd) let fall  
Bloodshed, and havock, on embattled realms,  
And rescu'd *monarchs* from so black a guilt !  
**BOURBON** ! this wish how gen'rous in a foe !  
Wouldst thou be great, wouldst thou become a god,  
And stick thy deathless name among the stars,  
For mighty conquests on a needle's point ?  
Instead of forging chains for *foreigners*,  
*Bastile* thy tutor. Grandeur all thy aim ?  
As yet thou know'st not what it is. How great,  
How glorious, then, appears the *mind* of man,

When

When in it all the stars, and planets, roll !  
And what it *seems* it is : Great objects make  
Great minds, enlarging as their views enlarge ;  
Those still more godlike, as *these* more divine.

And more divine than *these*, thou canst not see.  
Dazzled, o'erpow'r'd, with the delicious draught  
Of miscellaneous splendors, how I reel  
From thought to thought, inebriate, without end :  
An *Eden*, this ! a PARADISE *unlost* !  
I meet the DEITY in ev'ry view,  
And tremble at my nakedness before him !  
O that I could but reach the *tree of life* !  
For *here* it grows, unguarded from our taste ;  
No flaming *sword* denies our entrance *here* ;  
Would man but gather, he might *live for ever*.

LORENZO ! much of *moral* hast thou seen :  
Of curious arts art thou more fond ? Then mark  
The *mathematic* glories of the skies,  
In number, weight, and measure, all ordain'd.  
LORENZO's boasted builders, *chance*, and *fate*,  
Are left to finish his aërial towers ;  
*Wisdom*, and *choice*, their well-known characters  
*Here* deep impress ; and claim it for their own.  
Tho' splendid all, no splendor void of use ;  
*Use* rivals *beauty* ; *art* contends with *power* ;  
No wanton waste, amid effuse expence ;  
The great OECONOMIST adjusting all  
To prudent pomp, magnificently wise.  
How rich the prospect ! and for ever new !

And nervest to the man that views it most ;  
 For newer still in infinite succeeds.  
 Then, these aërial racers, O how swift !  
 How the shaft *biters* from the strongest string !  
*Spirit* alone can distance the career.  
 O b above orb ascending without end !  
 Circle in circle, without end, inclos'd !  
 Wheel within wheel ; EZEKIEL ! like to thine,  
 Like thine, it seems a vision, or a dream ;  
 Tho' seen, we labour to believe it true !  
 What involution ! what extent ! what swarms  
 Of worlds, that laugh at earth ! immensely great  
 Immensely distant from each other's spheres !  
 What then, the wond'rous space thro' which they  
 roll ?

At once it quite ingulphs all human thought ;  
 'Tis comprehension's absolute defeat.

Nor think thou seest a wild disorder here ;  
 Thro' this illustrious chaos to the sight,  
 Arrangement neat, and chaste order, reign.  
 The path prescrib'd, inviolably kept,  
 Upbraids the lawless fallies of mankind.  
 Worlds, ever thwarting, never interfere ;  
 What knots are ty'd ! How soon are they dissolv'd,  
 And set the seeming marry'd planets free !  
 They rove for ever, without error rove ;  
 Confusion unconfus'd ! Nor less admire  
 This tumult untumultuous ; all on wing !  
 In motion, all ! yet what profound repose !

What

What fervid action, yet no noise ! as aw'd  
To silence, by the presence of their LORD ;  
Or hush'd, by *his* command, in love to man,  
And bid let fall soft beams on human rest,  
Restless themselves. On yon cœrulean plain,  
In exultation to *their* GOD, and *thine*,  
They dance, they sing eternal jubilee,  
Eternal celebration of *his* praise.

But, since their *song* arrives not at our ear,  
Their *dance* perplex'd exhibits to the sight  
Fair hieroglyphic of *his* peerless power.

Mark, how the *labyrinthian* turns they take,  
The circles intricate, and mystic maze,  
Weave the grand cypher of *Omnipotence* ;  
To *gods*, how great ! how legible to *man* !

Leaves so much wonder greater wonder still ?  
Where are the pillars that support the skies ?  
What more than *Atlantean* shoulder props  
Th' incumbent load ? What magic, what strange art,  
In fluid air these pond'rous orbs sustains ;  
Who would not think them hung in golden  
chains ?—

And so they are ; in the high will of *Heaven*,  
Which fixes all ; makes adamant of air,  
Or air of adamant ; makes all of nought,  
Or nought of all ; if *such* the dread decree.

Imagine from their deep foundations torn  
The most gigantic sons of earth, the broad  
And tow'ring *Alps*, all tost into the sea ;

And, light as down, or volatile as air,  
 Their bulks enormous dancing on the waves,  
 In time, and measure, exquisite ; while all  
 The winds, in emulation of the spheres,  
 Tune their sonorous instruments aloft ;  
 The concert swell, and animate the ball.  
 Would this appear amazing ? What, then, worlds,  
 In a far thinner element sustain'd,  
 And acting the same part, with greater skill,  
 More rapid movement, and for noblest ends ?

More obvious ends to pass, are not these stars  
 The seats majestic, proud imperial thrones,  
 On which angelic delegates of Heaven,  
 At certain periods, as the Sov'reign nods,  
 Discharge high trusts of vengeance, or of love ;  
 To cloathe, in outward grandeur, grand design,  
 And acts most solemn still more solemnize ?

Ye citizens of air ! what ardent thanks,  
 What full effusion of the grateful heart,  
 Is due from man indulg'd in such a sight !  
 A sight so noble ! and a sight so kind !  
 It drops new truths at ev'ry new survey !  
 Feels not LORENZO something stir within,  
 That sweeps away all period ? As these spheres  
 Measure duration, they no less inspire  
 The godlike hope of ages without end.  
 The boundless space, thro' which these rovers take  
 Their restless roam, suggests the sister-thought  
 Of boundless time. Thus, by kind nature's skill,

To man un-labour'd, that important guest,  
ETERNITY, finds entrance at the *sight* :  
And an *eternity*, for man ordain'd,  
Or these his destin'd midnight counsellors,  
The *stars*, had never whisper'd it to man.  
NATURE *informs*, but ne'er *insults*, her sons.  
Could she then kindle the most ardent wish  
To *disappoint* it?—That is blasphemy.  
Thus, of thy creed a second article,  
Momentous, as th' existence of a GOD,  
Is found (as I conceive) where rarely sought;  
And thou may'st read thy *soul immortal*, here.

Here, then, LORENZO! on these glories dwell;  
Nor want the gilt, illuminated, roof,  
That calls the wretched *gay* to dark delights.  
*Assemblies?*—This is one divinely bright;  
Here, un-endanger'd in health, wealth, or fame,  
Range thro' the fairest, and the SULTAN scorn.  
*He*, wise as *thou*, no *crescent* holds so fair,  
As that, which on his turban awes a world;  
And thinks the *moon* is proud to copy him.  
Look on her, and gain more than worlds can give,  
A mind superior to the charms of *power*.  
Thou muzzled in delusions of this life!  
Can yonder *moon* turn ocean in his bed,  
From side to side, in constant ebb and flow,  
And purify from stench his watry realms?  
And fails her *moral* influence? Wants she power

To turn LORENZO's stubborn tide of thought  
 From stagnating on *earth's* infested shore,  
 And purge from nuisance his corrupted heart?  
 Fails her attraction when it draws to heaven?  
 Nay, and to what thou valu'st more, *earth's* joy?  
 Minds elevate, and panting for *unseen*,  
 And defecate from *sense*, alone obtain  
 Full relish of existence un-deflower'd,  
 'The life of life, the zest of worldly bliss.  
 All else on earth amounts—to what? To this:  
 "BAD to be suffer'd; BLESSINGS to be left;"  
 Earth's richest inventory boasts no more.

Of higher scenes be, then, the call obey'd.  
 O let me gaze!—Of gazing there's no end.  
 O let me think!—Thought too is wilder'd here;  
 In mid-way flight imagination tires;  
 Yet soon re-prunes her wing to soar anew,  
 Her point unable to forbear, or gain;  
 So great the pleasure, so profound the plan!  
 A banquet, this, where men, and angels, meet,  
 Eat the same manna, mingle earth and heaven.  
 How distant some of these nocturnal suns!  
 So distant (says the sage), 'twere not absurd  
 To doubt, if beams, set out at *nature's* birth,  
 Are yet arriv'd at this so foreign world;  
 Tho' nothing half so rapid as their flight.  
 An eye of awe and wonder let me roll,  
 And roll for ever: who can satiate sight  
 In such a scene? in such an ocean wide

Of

Of deep astonishment? Where depth, height,  
breadth,

Are lost in their extremes; and where to count  
The thick-sown glories in this field of fire,  
Perhaps a *seraph's* computation fails.

Now, go, *Ambition!* boast thy boundless might  
In conquest, o'er the tenth part of a grain.

And yet LORENZO calls for miracles,  
To give his tott'ring faith a solid base.  
Why call for less than is *already* thine?  
Thou art no novice in theology;  
What is a *miracle?*—'Tis a reproach,  
'Tis an implicit satire, on mankind;  
And while it *satisfies*, it *censures* too.  
To common-sense, great *nature's* course proclaims  
A DEITY: when mankind falls asleep,  
A *miracle* is sent, as an alarm,  
To wake the world, and prove *Him* o'er again,  
By recent argument, but not more strong.  
Say, Which imports more plenitude of power,  
Or *nature's* laws to *fix*, or to *repeal*?  
To make a fun, or *flop* his mid-career?  
To countermand his orders, and send back  
The flaming courier to the frightened *east*,  
Warm'd, and astonish'd, at his ev'ning ray?  
Or bid the *moon*, as with her journey tir'd,  
In *Ajalon's* soft, flow'ry vale repose?  
Great things are these; still greater, to *create*.

From ADAM's bow'r look down thro' the whole train  
 Of miracles :—Resistless is their power ?  
 'They do not, *can* not, more amaze the mind,  
 Than this, *call'd* un-miraculous survey,  
 If duly weigh'd, if rationally seen,  
 If seen with *human* eyes. 'The brute, indeed,  
 Sees nought but *spangles* here ; the fool, no more  
 Say'st thou, " The course of nature governs all ?"  
 The course of nature is the art of GOD.  
 The miracles thou call'st for, *this* attest ;  
 For say, could *nature* *nature*'s course controul ?

But, miracles apart, who sees HIM not, (END)  
 Nature's CONTROULER, AUTHOR, GUIDE, and  
 Who turns his eye on *nature*'s midnight-face,  
 But must inquire—" What hand behind the scene  
 " What arm Almighty, put these wheeling globe  
 " In motion, and wound up the vast machine ?  
 " Who rounded in his palm these spacious orbs ?  
 " Who bowl'd them flaming thro' the dark profound,  
 " Num'rous as glitt'ring gems of morning-dew,  
 " Or sparks from populous cities in a blaze,  
 " And set the bosom of *old night* on fire ?  
 " Peopled her desart, and made horror smile ?"  
 Or, if the military stile delights thee, [imar  
 (For stars have fought their battles, leagu'd with  
 " Who marshals this bright host ? Enrolls the  
 names ?  
 " Appoints their post, their marches, and returns  
 " Punctual

"Punctual, at stated periods? Who disbands  
 "These vet'ran troops, their final duty done,  
 "If e'er disbanded?"—HE, whose potent word,  
 Like the loud trumpet, levy'd first their powers  
 In *Night's* inglorious empire, where they slept  
 In beds of darkness; arm'd them with fierce  
 flames,

Arrang'd, and disciplin'd, and cloath'd in gold;  
 And call'd them out of *chaos* to the field,  
 Where now they war with *vice* and *unbelief*.  
 O let us join this army! Joining these,  
 Will give us hearts intrepid, at that hour,  
 When brighter flames shall cut a *darker* night;  
 When these strong demonstrations of a GOD  
 Shall hide their heads, or tumble from their spheres,  
 And one *eternal* curtain cover all!

Struck at *that* thought, as new-awak'd, I lift  
 A more enlighten'd eye, and read the stars,  
 To man still more propitious; and their aid  
 (Tho' guiltless of idolatry) implore;  
 Nor longer rob them of their noblest name.  
 O ye *dividers* of my time! ye bright  
 Accomptants of my days, and months, and years,  
 In your fair kalendar distinctly mark'd!  
 Since that authentic, radiant register,  
 Tho' man inspects it not, stands good against him;  
 Since *you*, and years, roll on, tho' man stands still;  
 Teach me my days to number, and apply  
 My trembling heart to *wisdom*; now beyond

All shadow of excuse for fooling on.

*Age* smooths our path to prudence ; sweeps aside  
The snares, keen *appetite*, and *passion*, spread  
To catch stray souls ; and, woe to that grey head,  
Whose *folly* would undo, what *age* has done !  
*Aid*, then, aid, all ye stars !—Much rather, THOU,  
Great ARTIST ! Thou, whose finger set aight  
This exquisite *machine*, with all its *wheels*,  
Tho' intervolv'd, exact ; and pointing out  
Life's rapid, and irrevocable flight,  
With such an *index* fair, as none can miss,  
Who lifts an eye, nor sleeps till it is clos'd.  
Open *mine* eye, dread DEITY ! to read  
The tacit doctrine of thy works ; to see  
Things as they *are*, un-alter'd thro' the glass  
Of worldly wishes. *Time, Eternity !*  
('Tis these, mis-measur'd, ruin all mankind)  
Set them before me ; let me lay them both  
In equal scale, and learn their various weight.  
Let *Time* appear a *moment*, as it *is* ;  
And let *Eternity*'s full orb, at once,  
Turn on my soul, and strike it into heaven.  
When shall I see far more than charms me now ?  
Gaze on creation's model in *thy* breast  
Unveil'd, nor wonder at the transcript more ?  
When, this vile, foreign, dust, which smothers all  
That travel *earth*'s deep vale, shall I shake off ?  
When shall my soul her incarnation quit,  
And, re-adopted to thy blest embrace,  
Obtain her *apotheosis* in THEE ?

Dct.

Dost think, LORENZO! this is wand'ring wide?  
No, 'tis directly striking at the mark;  
To wake thy *dead devotion* \* was my point;  
And how I bless night's consecrating shades,  
Which to a *temple* turn an *universe*;  
Fill us with great ideas, full of heaven,  
And antidote the pestilential earth!  
In ev'ry storm, that either frowns, or falls,  
What an asylum has the soul in prayer!  
And what a fane is *this*, in which to pray!  
And what a GOD must dwell in such a fane!  
O what a genius must inform the skies!  
And is LORENZO's salamander-heart  
Cold, and untouch'd, amid these sacred fires?  
O ye nocturnal sparks! Ye glowing embers,  
On heav'n's broad hearth! who burn, or burn  
no more,  
Who blaze, or die, as Great JEHOVAH's breath  
Or blows you, or forbears; assist my song;  
Pour your whole influence; exorcise his heart,  
So long possest; and bring him back to *man*.  
And is LORENZO a demurrer still?  
Pride in thy parts provokes thee to contest  
*Truths*, which, contested, put thy *parts* to shame.  
Nor shame they more LORENZO's *head*, than *heart*;  
A *faithless* heart, how despicably small!  
Too straight, aught great, or gen'rous, to receive!  
Fill'd with an atom! fill'd, and foul'd, with *self*!

\* Page 295.

And self mistaken ! self, that lasts an hour !

*Instincts and passions*, of the nobler kind,

Lie suffocated there ; or they alone,

*Reason apart*, would wake high hope ; and open,

To ravish'd thought, that *intellectual sphere*,

Where *order, wisdom, goodness, providence*,

Their endless miracles of love display,

And promise all the truly great desire.

The mind that would be *happy*, must be *great* ;

*Great*, in its *wishes* ; *great*, in its *surveys*.

Extended views a narrow mind extend ;

Push out its corrugate, expansive make,

Which, ere-long, more than planets shall embrace

A man of *compass* makes a man of *worth* ;

*Divine* contemplate, and become *divine*.

As man was made for glory, and for bliss,  
All littleness is in approach to woe.

Open thy bosom, set thy wishes wide,

And let in *manhood* ; let in *happiness* ;

Admit the boundless theatre of thought

From Nothing, up to GOD ; which makes a man

Take GOD from *nature*, nothing great is left ;

Man's mind is in a pit, and nothing sees ;

Man's heart is in a jakes, and loves the mire.

Emerge from thy profound ; erect thine eye ;

See thy distress ! How close art thou besieg'd !

Besieg'd by *nature*, the proud sceptic's foe !

Inclos'd by these innumerable worlds,

Sparkling conviction on the darkest mind,

As in a golden net of PROVIDENCE,  
How art thou caught, sure captive of belief !  
From this thy blest captivity, what art,  
What blasphemy to reason, sets thee free ?  
This scene is heav'n's indulgent violence :  
Canst thou bear up against this tide of glory ?  
What is earth bosom'd in these ambient orbs,  
But, faith in GOD impos'd, and press'd on man ?  
Dar'st thou still litigate thy desp'r ate cause,  
Spite of these num'rous, awful, *witnesses*,  
And doubt the *deposition* of the skies ?  
O how laborious is thy way to ruin !

Laborious ? 'Tis *impracticable* quite ;  
To sink beyond a *doubt*, in this debate,  
With all his weight of wisdom, and of will,  
And crime flagitious, I defy a fool.  
*Some* wish they *did* ; but *no man disbelieves*.  
GOD is a *Spirit* ; *spirit* cannot strike  
These gross, material organs ; GOD by man  
As much is seen, as man a GOD can see,  
In these astonishing exploits of power.  
What order, beauty, motion, distance, size !  
Concertion of design, how exquisite !  
How complicate, in their divine police !  
Apt means ! great ends ! consent to gen'ral good ! —  
Each attribute of these *material gods*,  
So long (and that with specious pleas) ador'd,  
A sep'reate conquest gains o'er rebel thought ;  
And leads in triumph the whole mind of man.

LORENZO! this may seem *harangue* to thee;  
 Such all is apt to seem, that thwarts our will.  
 And dost thou, then, demand a *simple* proof  
 Of this great master-moral of the skies,  
 Unskill'd, or dis-inclin'd, to read it *there*?  
 Since 'tis the basis, and all drops without it,  
 Take it, in one compact, unbroken chain.  
*Such* proof insists on an attentive ear;  
 'Twill not make one amid a mob of thoughts,  
 And, for thy notice, struggle with the world.  
*Retire*;—The *world* shut out;—Thy thoughts  
 call home;—

*Imagination's* airy wing repress;—  
 Lock up thy *senses*;—Let no *passion* stir;—  
 Wake all to *reason*;—Let *her* reign alone;—  
 Then, in thy *soul's* deep silence, and the depth  
 Of *nature's* silence, midnight, thus inquire,  
 As *I* have done; and shall inquire no more.  
 In *nature's* channel, thus the questions run.

“ What am I? and from whence?—I nothing  
 know,  
 “ But that I *am*; and, since I *am*, conclude  
 “ Something *eternal*: Had there e'er been *nough*:  
 “ *Nought* still had been: *Eternal* there *must* be.—  
 “ But what *eternal*?—Why not *human race*?  
 “ And *ADAM*'s ancestors without an end?—  
 “ That's hard to be conceiv'd; since ev'ry link  
 “ Of that long-chain'd succession is so frail;  
 “ Can ev'ry part depend, and not the *whole*? ”

" Yet grant it true ; new difficulties rise ;  
" I'm still quite out at sea ; nor see the shore.  
" Whence earth, and these bright *orbs*?—Eternal  
    too?—  
" Grant matter was eternal ; still these *orbs*  
" Would want some other Father ;—much design  
" Is seen in all their *motions*, all their *makes* ;  
" Design implies intelligence, and art :  
" That can't be from *themselves*—or man ; that art  
" Man scarce can comprehend, could man bestow ?  
" And nothing greater, yet allow'd, than man.—  
" Who, *motion*, foreign to the smallest grain,  
" Shot thro' vast masses of enormous weight ?  
" Who bid brute matter's restive lump assume  
" Such various forms, and gave it wings to fly ?  
" Has matter innate motion ? Then each atom,  
" Asserting its indisputable right  
" To dance, would form an universe of dust :  
" Has matter none ? Then whence these glorious  
    forms,  
" And boundless flights, from *shapeless*, and *repos'd*?  
" Has matter more than motion ? Has it thought,  
" Judgment, and genius ? Is it deeply learn'd  
" In *mathematics*? Has it fram'd such laws,  
" Which, but to *guess*, a NEWTON made im-  
    mortal ?—  
" If so, how each sage atom laughs at me,  
" Who think a *cold* inferior to a *man* !

" If

“ If art, to form ; and counsel, to conduct ;  
 “ And that with greater far, than human skill,  
 “ Resides not in each block ;—a GODHEAD  
 reigns.—

“ Grant, then, invisible, eternal, MIND ;  
 “ That granted, all is solv’d.—But, granting that,  
 “ Draw I not o’er me a still darker cloud ?  
 “ Grant I not that which I can ne’er conceive ?  
 “ A Being without origin, or end !—  
 “ Hail, human liberty ! There is no GOD—  
 “ Yet, why ? On either scheme that knot subsists ;  
 “ Subsist it *must*, in GOD, or *human race* ;  
 “ If in the last, how many knots beside,  
 “ Indissoluble all ?—Why chuse it *there*,  
 “ Where chosen, still subsist ten thousand more ?  
 “ Reject it, where, *that* chosen, all the rest  
 “ Dispers’d, leave *reason’s* whole horizon clear ?  
 “ This is not *reason’s* dictate ; *reason* says,  
 “ Close with the side where *one* grain turns the scale  
 “ What vast preponderance is here ! Can *reason*  
 “ With louder voice exclaim—*Believe a GOD* ?  
 “ And *reason* heard, is the sole mark of man.  
 “ What things impossible must man think true,  
 “ On any other system ! and how strange  
 “ To *disbelieve*, through mere credulity !”

If, in this chain, LORENZO finds no flaw,  
 Let it for ever bind him to *belief*.

And where the link, in which a flaw he finds ?—  
 And, if a GOD there is, that GOD how great !

How

## The CONSOLATION. 327

How great that Pow'r, whose providential care  
Thro' these bright orbs dark centres darts a ray !  
Of nature universal threads the whole !  
And hangs creation, like a precious gem,  
Tho' little, on the footstool of his throne !

That little gem, how large ! A weight let fall  
From a fixt star, in ages can it reach  
This distant earth ? Say, then, LORENZO ! where,  
Where, ends this mighty building ? Where, begin  
The suburbs of creation ? Where, the wall  
Whose battlements look o'er into the vale  
Of Non-existence ? NOTHING's strange abode !  
Say, at what point of space JEHOVAH dropp'd  
His slacken'd line, and laid his balance by ;  
Weigh'd worlds, and measur'd infinite, no more ?  
Where, rears his terminating pillar high  
Its extra-mundane head ? and says, to gods,  
In characters illustrious as the sun,

I stand, the plan's proud period ; I pronounce  
The work accomplish'd ; the creation clos'd :  
Shout, all ye gods ! nor shout, ye gods alone ;  
Of all that lives, or, if devoid of life,  
That resists, or rolls, ye heights, and depths, resound !  
Resound ! resound ! ye depths, and heights, resound !  
Hard are those questions ?—Answer harder still.  
Is this the sole exploit, the single birth,  
The solitary son, of Pow'r Divine ?  
Or has th' Almighty FATHER, with a breath,  
Impregnated the womb of distant space ?

328      The CONSOLATION.    Night 9.

Has he not bid, in various provinces,  
Brother-creations the dark bowels burst  
Of *Night* primæval; barren, now, no more?  
And *He* the central sun, transpiercing all  
Those giant-generations, which disport,  
And dance, as *motes*, in his meridian ray;  
That ray withdrawn, benighted, or absorb'd,  
In that *abyss of horror*, whence they sprung;  
While *Chaos* triumphs, reposseſt of all  
Rival *Creation* ravish'd from his throne?  
*CHAOS!* of *nature* both the womb, and grave!

Think'st thou, my scheme, *LORENZO*, spreads  
too wide?

Is this *extravagant*?—No; this is *just*;  
Just, in *conjecture*, tho' 'twere false in *fact*.  
If 'tis an error, 'tis an error sprung [HIGH.  
From noble root, high thought of the MOST  
But wherefore error? Who can prove it such?—  
He that can set OMNIPOTENCE a bound.  
Can man conceive beyond what GOD can do?  
Nothing, but quite-impossible, is hard.  
*He* summons into being, with like ease,  
A whole *creation*, and a single grain.  
Speaks he the word? a thousand worlds are born!—  
A thousand worlds! There's space for millions  
And in what space can his great *fiat* fail? [more;  
Condemn me not, cold critic! but indulge  
The warm *imagination*: Why condemn?  
Why not indulge such thoughts, as swell our hearts

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With fuller admiration of *that Power*, [swell ?  
Who gives our hearts with such high thoughts to  
Why not indulge in *his* augmented praise ?  
Darts not *his* glory a still brighter ray,  
The less is left to *Chaos*, and the realms  
Of hideous *Night*, where *fancy* strays aghast ;  
And, tho' most talkative, makes no *report* ?

Still seems my thought enormous ? Think  
*Experience* 'self shall aid thy lame belief. [again ;—  
*Glasses* (that revelation to the sight !)  
Have they not led us deep in the disclose  
Of fine-spun *nature*, exquisitely *small* ;  
And, tho' demonstrated, still ill conceiv'd ?  
If, then, on the reverse, the mind would mount  
In *magnitude*, what mind can mount too far,  
To keep the ballance, and creation *poise* ?  
*Defect* alone can err on such a theme :  
What is too great, if we the *Cause* survey ?  
Stupendous ARCHITECT ! THOU, THOU art all !  
My soul flies up and down in thoughts of THEE,  
And finds herself but at the centre still !  
I AM, thy name ! *Existence*, all thine own !  
*Creation's* nothing ; flatter'd much, if stil'd  
“ *The thin, the fleeting atmosphere of GOD.* ”

O for the voice—Of what ? of whom ?—

What voice

Can answer to my wants, in such ascent,  
As dares to deem one universe too small ?  
Tell me, LORENZO ! (for now *fancy* glows,

Fir'd

Fir'd in the vortex of Almighty power)  
 Is not this home-creation, in the map  
 Of universal *nature*, as a speck,  
 Like fair BRITANNIA in our little ball ;  
 Exceeding fair, and glorious, for its size,  
 But, elsewhere, far out-measur'd, far outshone?  
 In fancy (for the fact beyond us lies)  
 Canst thou not figure it, an *isle*, almost  
 Too small for notice, in the *vast* of being ;  
 Sever'd by mighty seas of *un-built* space,  
 From other *realms* ; from ample *continents*  
 Of higher life, where nobler natives dwell ;  
 Less *northern*, less remote from DEITY,  
 Glowing beneath the *line* of the SUPREME ;  
 Where souls in excellence make haste, put forth  
 Luxuriant growths ; nor the late autumn wait  
 Of *human* worth, but ripen soon to gods ?

Yet why drown *fancy* in such depths as these ?  
 Return, presumptuous rover ! and confess  
 The bounds of man ; nor blame them, as too small.  
 Enjoy we not full scope in what is *seen* ?  
 Full ample the dominions of the sun !  
 Full glorious to behold ! How far, how wide,  
 The matchless monarch, from his flaming throne,  
 Lavish of lustre, throws his beams about him,  
 Farther, and faster, than a thought can fly,  
 And feeds his planets with eternal fires !  
 This *Heliopolis*, by greater far,  
 Than the proud tyrant of the *Nile*, was built ;

And *He* alone, who built it, can destroy.  
Beyond *this city*, why strays human thought?  
*One* wonderful, enough for man to know!  
*One* infinite, enough for man to range!  
*One* firmament, enough for man to read!  
O what voluminous instruction here!  
What page of wisdom is deny'd him? None;  
If learning his chief lesson makes him wise.  
Nor is *instruction*, here, our only gain;  
There dwells a noble *pathos* in the skies,  
Which warms our passions, proselytes our hearts.  
How eloquently shines the glowing pole!  
With what authority it gives its charge,  
Remonstrating great truths in stile sublime,  
Tho' silent, loud! heard earth around; above  
The planets heard; and not unheard in hell;  
*Hell* has her wonder, tho' too proud to praise.  
Is *earth*, then, more infernal? Has she those,  
Who neither *praise* (*LORENZO!*) nor *admire*?

*LORENZO's* admiration, pre-engag'd,  
Ne'er ask'd the *moon* one question; never held  
Least correspondence with a single star;  
Ne'er rear'd an altar to the *queen of heaven*  
Walking in brightness; or her train ador'd.  
Their *sublunary* rivals have long since  
*Engross'd* his whole devotion; *stars* malign,  
Which made their fond *astronomer* run mad;  
Darken his *intellect*, corrupt his heart;

Cause

## 332      The CONSOLATION. Night 9.

Cause him to sacrifice his fame and peace  
 To momentary madness, call'd delight.  
 Idolater, more gross than ever kis'd  
 The lifted hand to LUNA, or pour'd out  
 The blood to JOVE!—O THOU, to whom belongs  
*All* sacrifice! O Thou great JOVE unfeign'd!  
 DIVINE INSTRUCTOR! Thy first volume, *this*,  
 For man's perusal; all in CAPITALS!  
 In moon, and stars (heav'n's golden alphabet!)  
 Emblaz'd to seize the sight; who runs, may read;  
 Who reads, can understand. 'Tis unconfin'd  
 To Christian land, or Jewry; fairly writ,  
 In language universal, to MANKIND:  
 A language, lofty to the learn'd; yet plain,  
 To those that feed the flock, or guide the plough,  
 Or, from its husk, strike out the bounding grain.  
 A language, worthy the GREAT MIND, that  
*Preface*, and *comment*, to the sacred page! [speaks!  
 Which oft refers its reader to the skies,  
 As pre-supposing his First lesson *there*,  
 And scripture-self a fragment, that unread.  
 Stupendous book of wisdom, to the wise!  
 Stupendous book! and open'd, NIGHT! by thee.  
 By thee much open'd, I confess, O Night!  
 Yet more I wish; but how shall I prevail?  
 Say, gentle Night! whose modest, maiden beams  
 Give us a new creation, and present  
 The world's great picture soften'd to the sight;  
 Nay, kinder far, far more indulgent still,

Say

Say thou, whose mild dominion's silver key  
Unlocks our hemisphere, and sets to view  
Worlds beyond number; worlds conceal'd by day  
Behind the proud, and envious star of noon!  
Canst thou not draw a deeper scene?—And shew  
The mighty POTENTATE, to whom belong  
These rich *regalia* pompously display'd  
To kindle that high hope? Like him of *Uz*,  
I gaze around; I search on ev'ry side—  
O for a glimpse of HIM my soul adores!  
As the chas'd hart, amid the desert waste, [her,  
Pants for the living stream; for HIM who made  
So pants the thirsty soul, amid the blank  
Of sublunary joys. Say, goddess! Where?  
Where, blazes *His* bright court? Where burns *His*  
throne? [round  
Thou know'st; for thou art near him; by thee,  
*His* grand pavilion, sacred fame reports  
The fable curtain drawn. If not, can none  
Of thy fair daughter-train, so swift of wing,  
Who travel far, discover where *He* dwells?  
Aflar *His* dwelling pointed out below.  
*Ye Pleiades!* *Arcturus!* *Mazzaroth!*  
And thou, *Orion!* of still keener eye!  
Say, ye, who guide the wilder'd in the waves,  
And bring them out of tempest into port?  
On which hand must I bend my course to find *Him*?  
These courtiers keep the secret of their KING;  
I wake whole nights, in vain, to steal it from them.  
I wake;

I wake; and, waking, climb *Night's* radiant scale,  
From sphere to sphere; the steps by nature set  
For man's ascent; at once to *tempt*, and *aid*;  
To *tempt* his eye, and *aid* his tow'ring thought;  
Till it arrives at the great *Goal* of all.

In ardent *contemplation's* rapid car,  
From *earth*, as from my barrier, I set out.  
How swift I mount! Diminish'd *earth* recedes;  
I pass the *moon*; and, from her farther side,  
Pierce heav'n's blue curtain; strike into *remote*;  
Where, with his lifted tube, the subtil sage  
His artificial, airy journey takes,  
And to *celestial* lengthens *human* sight.  
I pause at ev'ry *planet* on my road,  
And ask for HIM, who gives their orbs **to** roll,  
Their foreheads fair to shine. From **SATURN'S** ring  
In which, of *earths* an army might be lost,  
With the bold *comet*, take my bolder flight,  
Amid those *sou'reign* glories of the skies,  
Of independent, native lustre, proud;  
The souls of systems! and the lords of life,  
Thro' their wide empires!—What behold I now!  
A wilderness of wonders burning round;  
Where *larger* suns inhabit *higher* spheres;  
Perhaps the *villas* of descending gods!  
Nor halt I here; my toil is but begun;  
'Tis but the threshold of the **DEITY**;  
Or, far beneath it, I am grov'ling still.

Nor is it strange ; I built on a mistake ;  
The grandeur of his works, whence *folly* sought  
For aid, to *reason* sets His glory higher. [Him) ;  
Who built thus high for worms (mere worms to  
D where, LORENZO ! must the BUILDER dwell ?  
Pause, then ; and, for a moment, here respire—  
If human thought can keep its station here.  
Where am I ?—Where is *earth*?—Nay, where  
art thou,

O *sun*?—Is the sun turn'd recluse ?—And are  
His boasted expeditions short to *mine*?  
To *mine*, how short ! On nature's *Alps* I stand,  
And see a thousand firmaments beneath !  
A thousand systems ! as a thousand grains !  
So much a stranger, and so *late* arriv'd,  
How can man's curious spirit not inquire,  
What are the natives of this world sublime,  
Of this so foreign, un-terrestrial sphere,  
Where mortal, *untranslated*, never stray'd ?  
“ O ye, as distant from my little home,  
As swiftest sun-beams in an age can fly !  
Far from my native element I roam,  
In quest of new, and wonderful, to man.  
What province this, of *His* immense domain,  
Whom all obeys ? Or mortals here, or gods ?  
Ye bord'lers on the coasts of bliss ! what are you ?  
A colony from heav'n ? Or, only rais'd,  
By frequent visit from heav'n's neighbouring  
realms,

To

" To secondary gods, and half divine?—  
 " Whate'er your nature, this is past dispute,  
 " Far other life you live, far other tongue  
 " You talk, far other thought, perhaps, you think  
 " Than man. How various are the works of God!  
 " But say, *What* thought? Is *reason* here enthron'd?  
 " And absolute? Or *sense* in arms against her?  
 " Have you *two* lights? Or need you no *reveal'd*?  
 " Enjoy your happy realms their golden age?  
 " And had your EDEN an abstemious EVE?  
 " Our Eve's fair daughters prove their pedigree,  
 " And ask their ADAMS—'Who would not be wise?'  
 " Or, if your mother fell, are you *redeem'd*?  
 " And if *redeem'd*—is your *Redeemer* *scorn'd*?  
 " Is this your final residence? If not,  
 " Change you your scene, *translated*? Or by death?  
 " And if by death; *What* death?—Know you  
*disease*?  
 " Or horrid war?—With war, this fatal hour,  
 " EUROPA groans (so call we a small field,  
 " Where kings run mad). In our world, DEATH  
 deputes  
 " Intemperance to do the work of age;  
 " And, hanging up the quiver *nature* gave him,  
 " As slow of execution, for dispatch  
 " Sends forth *imperial* butchers; bids them slay  
 " Their sheep (the silly sheep they fleec'd before)  
 " And toss him twice ten thousand at a meal.  
 " Sit all your executioners on thrones?

" Wit

“ With you, can rage for plunder make a God ?  
“ And bloodshed wash out ev’ry other stain ?—  
“ But you, perhaps, can’t bleed : from matter gross  
“ Your spirits clean, are delicately clad  
“ In fine-spun æther ; privileg’d to soar,  
“ Unloaded, uninfected ; how unlike  
“ The lot of man ? How few of human race  
“ By their own mud unmurder’d ! How we wage  
“ Self-war eternal !—Is your painful day  
“ Of hardy conflict o’er ? Or, are you still  
“ Raw candidates at school ? And have you those  
“ Who disaffect re-versions, as with us ?  
“ But what are we ? You never heard of *man*,  
“ Or *earth* ; the *bedlam* of the universe !  
“ Where *reason* (un-diseas’d with you) runs mad,  
“ And nurses *folly’s* children as *her own* ;  
“ Fond of the foulest. In the sacred mount  
“ Of *holiness*, where *reason* is pronounc’d  
“ *Infallible* ; and *thunders*, like a god ;  
“ Ev’n there, by *saints*, the *demons* are outdone ;  
“ What *these* think wrong, our *saints* refine to  
right ;  
“ And kindly teach *dull hell* her own black arts ;  
“ SATAN, instructed, o’er their *moral*s smiles.—  
“ But this, how strange to you, who know not *man* !  
“ Has the least rumour of our race arriv’d ?  
“ Call’d here ELIJAH, in his flaming car ?  
“ Past by you the good ENOCH, on his road

Q

“ T.

" To those fair fields, whence LUCIFER was hurl'd;  
 " Who brush'd, perhaps, your sphere, in his  
     descent,  
 " Stain'd your pure crystal æther, or let fall  
 " A short eclipse from his portentous shade?  
 " O! that the fiend had lodg'd on some broad orb  
 " Athwart his way; nor reach'd his present home,  
 " Then blacken'd earth with footsteps foul'd in hell,  
 " Nor wash'd in ocean, as from ROME he past  
 " To BRITAIN's isle; too, too, conspicuous there!"

But this is all digression: Where is HE,  
 That o'er heav'n's battlements the felon hurl'd  
 To groans, and chains, and darkness? Where is HE,  
 Who sees creation's summit in a vale?

HE, whom, while man is *man*, he can't but seek;  
 And if he finds, commences *more* than man?  
 O for a telescope his throne to reach!

Tell me, ye learn'd on *earth*! or blest *above*!  
 Ye searching, ye Newtonian angels! tell,  
 Where, your great MASTER's orb? his planets  
     where?

Those conscious satellites, those morning-stars,  
 First-born of DEITY! from central love,  
 By veneration most profound, thrown off;  
 By sweet attraction, no less strongly drawn;  
*Aw'd*, and yet *raptur'd*; *raptur'd*, yet *serene*;  
 Past thought, illustrious, but with borrow'd beams;  
 In still *approaching* circles, still *remote*,

Re-

Revolving round the sun's eternal SIRE ?  
Or sent, in lines direct, on embassies  
To nations—in what latitude ?—Beyond  
Terrestrial thought's horizon !—And on what  
High errands sent ?—Here *human* effort ends ;  
And leaves me still a stranger to *His* throne.

Full well it might ! I quite mistook my road,  
Born in an age more curious, than devout,  
More fond to fix the *place* of heav'n, or hell,  
Than studious *this* to shun, or *that* secure.

'Tis not the *curious*, but the *pious* path,  
That leads me to my point : LORENZO ! know,  
Without or *flar*, or *angel*, for their guide,  
Who worship GOD, shall find him. Humble *love*,  
And not proud *reason*, keeps the door of heav'n ;  
*Love* finds admission, where proud *science* fails.

Man's science is the culture of his heart ;  
And not to lose his plumbet in the depths  
Of *nature*, or the more profound of GOD.

Either to know, is an attempt that sets  
The wisest on a level with the fool.

To fathom *nature* (ill-attempted here !)  
Past doubt, is deep philosophy *above* ;  
Higher degrees in bliss archangels take,  
As deeper learn'd ; the deepest, learning still.  
For, what a *thunder* of omnipotence  
(So mighty I dare to speak) is *seen* in all !  
In *man* ! in *earth* ! in more amazing *skies* !

Teaching this lesson, *pride* is loth to learn—

“ Not deeply to discern, not much to know,

“ Mankind was born to WONDER, and ADORE.”

And is there cause for higher *wonder* still,  
Than that which struck us from our past surveys?

Yes; and for deeper *adoration* too.

From my late airy travel unconfin'd,

Have I learn'd nothing?—Yes, LORENZO! this;  
Each of these stars is a religious house;

I saw their altars smoke, their incense rise,

And heard *Hosannas* ring through ev'ry sphere,

A seminary fraught with future gods.

*Nature* all o'er is *consecrated* ground,

Teeming with growths immortal, and divine.

The great PROPRIETOR's all-bounteous hand  
Leaves nothing waste; but sows these fiery fields

With seeds of *reason*, which to *virtues* rise

Beneath His genial ray; and, if escap'd

The pestilential blasts of stubborn *will*,

When grown mature, are gather'd for the skies.

And is *devotion* thought too much on *earth*,

When beings, so superior, homage *boast*,

And *triumph* in prostrations to THE THRONE?

But wherefore more of planets, or of stars?

Æthereal journeys, and, discover'd there,

Ten thousand worlds, ten thousand ways devout?

All *nature* sending incense to THE THRONE,

Except the bold LORENZO's of our sphere?

Op'nning the solemn sources of my soul,

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Since I have pour'd, like feign'd ERIDANUS,  
My flowing numbers o'er the flaming skies,  
Nor see, of fancy, or of fact, what more,  
Invites the muse—here turn we, and review  
Our past nocturnal landschape wide;—then, say,  
Say, then, LORENZO! with what burst of heart,  
The whole, at once, revolving in his thought,  
Must man exclaim, adoring, and aghast?  
“ O what a root! O what a branch is here!  
“ O what a Father! what a family!  
“ Worlds! systems! and creations!—and crea-  
tions,  
“ In one agglomerated cluster, hung,  
“ \* Great VINE! on THEE, on THEE the  
cluster hangs;  
“ The filial cluster! infinitely spread  
“ In glowing globes, with various being fraught;  
“ And drinks (nectareous draught!) immortal life.  
“ Or, shall I say (for who can say enough?)  
“ A constellation of ten thousand gems,  
“ (And, O! of what dimension! of what weight!)  
“ Set in one *signet*, flames on the right-hand  
“ Of MAJESTY DIVINE! the *blazing-seal*,  
“ That deeply stamps, on all created mind,  
“ Indelible, *His* sov'reign attributes,  
“ OMNIPOTENCE, and LOVE! that, passing  
bound;  
“ And this, surpassing that. Nor stop we here,

\* John xv. 1.

Q 3

“ For

" For want of *pow'r* in GOD, but thought in  
MAN.

" Even *this* acknowledg'd, leaves us still in debt;

" If greater aught, that greater all is THINE,

" DREAD SIRE!—accept this miniature of THEE;

" And pardon an attempt from mortal thought,

" In which archangels might have fail'd, un-  
blam'd."

How such ideas of th' ALMIGHTY's *pow'r*,  
And such ideas of th' ALMIGHTY's *plan*,  
(Ideas not absurd) distend the thought  
Of feeble mortals! nor of *them* alone!

The fulness of the DEITY breaks forth  
In *inconceivables* to men, and gods.

'Think, then, O think; nor ever drop the thought;  
How low must man descend, when gods adore!—

Have I not, then, accomplish'd my proud boast?  
Did I not tell thee, " \* We would mount, Lo-

RENZO!

" And kindle our devotion at the *stars*? "

And have I fail'd? and did I flatter thee?

And art all adamant? and dost confute

All urg'd, with one irrefragable *smile*?

LORENZO! mirth how miserable *bere*!

Swear by the *stars*, by HIM who made them, swear,  
Thy heart, henceforth, shall be as pure as they:

Then thou, like them, shalt shine ; like them, shall rise  
From low to lofty ; from obscure to bright ;  
By due gradation, nature's sacred law.  
The stars, from whence ?—Ask chaos—He can tell.  
These bright temptations to idolatry,  
From darkness, and confusion, took their birth ;  
Sons of deformity ! from fluid dregs  
Tartarean, first they rose to masses rude ;  
And then, to spheres opaque ; then dimly shone ;  
Then brighten'd ; then blaz'd out in perfect day.  
Nature delights in progress ; in advance  
From worse to better : but, when minds ascend,  
Progress, in part, depends upon themselves.  
Heav'n aids exertion ; greater makes the great ;  
The voluntary little lessens more.  
O be a man ! and thou shalt be a god !  
And half self-made !—Ambition how divine !  
O thou, ambitious of disgrace alone !  
Still undevout ? unkindled ?—tho' high-taught,  
School'd by the skies ; and pupil of the stars ;  
Rank coward to the fashionable world !  
Art thou ashamed to bend thy knee to Heaven ?  
Curst fume of pride, exhal'd from deepest hell !  
Pride in religion is man's highest praise,  
Bent on destruction ! and in love with death !  
Not all these luminaries, quench'd at once,  
Were half so sad, as one benighted mind,  
Which gropes for happiness, and meets despair.

How, like a widow in her weeds, the *night*,  
 Amid her glimm'ring tapers, silent fits !  
 How sorrowful, how desolate, she weeps  
 Perpetual dews, and saddens nature's scene ?  
 A scene more sad *sin* makes the darken'd soul ;  
 All comfort kills, nor leaves one spark alive.

Tho' blind of heart, still open is thine eye :  
 Why such magnificence in all thou seest ?  
 Of matter's grandeur, know, one end is this,  
 To tell the *rational*, who gazes on it—  
 " Tho' that immensely great, still greater *he*,  
 " Whose breast, capacious, can embrace, and  
 lodge,  
 " Unburden'd, nature's universal scheme ;  
 " Can grasp *creation* with a *single* thought ;  
 " *Creation* grasp ; and not exclude its SIRE"—  
 To tell him farther—" It behoves him much  
 " To guard th' important, yet-depending, fate  
 " Of being, brighter than a thousand suns ;  
 " One single ray of *thought* outshines them all."—  
 And if man hears obedient, soon he'll soar  
 Superior heights, and on his purple wing,  
 His purple wing bedrop'd with eyes of gold,  
 Rising, where *thought* is now deny'd to rise,  
 Look down *triumphant* on these dazzling spheres.

Why then persist ?—No mortal ever liv'd  
 But, *dying*, he pronounc'd (when words are true !)  
 The whole that charms thee, absolutely vain ;

Vain,

Vain, and far worse!—Think thou, with dying  
O condescend to think as angels think! [men;  
O tolerate a chance for happiness!

Our nature such, ill choice ensures ill fate;  
And hell had been, tho' there had been no God.  
Dost thou not know, my new astronomer!

*Earth*, turning from the *sun*, brings night to man?  
*Man*, turning from his *God*, brings *endless* night;  
Where thou canst read no *morals*, find no *friend*,  
Amend no *manners*, and expect no *peace*.

How *deep* the darkness! and the groan, how *loud*!  
And far, how far, from *lambent* are the flames!  
Such is LORENZO's purchase! such his praise!  
The proud, the politic, LORENZO's praise!  
Tho' in his ear, and levell'd at his heart,  
I've half read o'er the volume of the skies.

For think not thou hast heard all this from *me*;  
My song but echoes what great *Nature* speaks:  
What has she spoken? Thus the goddess spoke,  
Thus speaks for ever:—“Place, at nature's head,  
“A Sov'reign, which o'er all things rolls his eye,  
“Extends his wing, promulgates his commands,  
“But, above all, diffuses endless good;  
“To whom, for sure redress, the wrong'd may fly;  
“The vile, for mercy; and the pain'd, for peace;  
“By whom, the various tenants of these spheres,  
“Diversify'd in fortunes, place, and powers,  
“Rais'd in enjoyment, as in worth they rise,  
“Arrive at length (if worthy such approach)

" At that blest fountain-head, from which the stream ;

" Where conflict past redoubles present joy ;

" And present joy looks forward on increase ;

" And that, on more ; no period ! ev'ry step

" A double boon ! a *promise*, and a *bliss*."

How easy fits *this* scheme on human hearts !

It suits their make ; it sooths their vast desires ;

*Passion* is pleas'd ; and *reason* asks no more ;

'Tis rational ! 'tis great !—But what is *thine* ?

It darkens ! shocks ! excruciates ! and confounds !

Leaves us quite naked, both of help, and hope,

Sinking from bad to worse ; few years, the sport  
Of fortune ; then, the morsel of *despair*.

Say, then, LORENZO ! (for thou know'st it well)

What's *vice* ? — Mere want of compass in our thought.

*Religion*, what ? — The proof of *common-sense* ;  
How art thou whooted, where the *least* prevails !

Is it *my* fault, if *these truths* call thee *fool* ?

And thou shalt never be *miscalld* by me.

Can neither *shame*, nor *terror*, stand thy friend ?

And art thou *still* an *insect* in the *mire* ?

How, like thy *guardian angel*, have I flown ;

Snatch'd thee from earth ; escorted thee thro' all

Th' æthereal armies ; walkt thee, like a god,

'Thro' splendors of first magnitude, arrang'd

On either hand ; clouds thrown beneath thy feet ;

Close-cruis'd on the bright paradise of God ;

And

And almost introduc'd thee to THE THRONE !  
 And art thou still carousing, for delight,  
 Rank poison ; first, fermenting to mere froth,  
 And then subsiding into final gall ?  
 To beings of sublime, *immortal* make,  
 How shocking is all joy, whose end is sure !  
 Such joy *more* shocking still, the more it charms !  
 And dost thou chuse what ends ere well-begun ;  
 And infamous, as short ? And dost thou chuse  
 (*Theu*, to whose palate glory is so sweet)  
 To wade into *perdition*, thro' *con'empt*,  
 Not of poor bigots only, but thy *own* ?  
 For I have peep'd into thy cover'd heart,  
 And seen it blush beneath a boastful brow ;  
 For, by strong guilt's most violent assault,  
 Conscience is but *disabled*, not *destroy'd*.

**O** thou most awful Being, and most vain !  
 Thy will, how *frail* ! how *glorious* is thy power !  
 Tho' dread ETERNITY has sown her seeds  
 Of bliss, and woe, in thy despotic breast ;  
 Tho' heav'n, and hell, depend upon thy choice ;  
 A butterfly comes 'cross, and both are fled.  
 Is this the picture of a rational ?  
 This horrid image, shall it be most just ?  
 LORENZO ! no : it cannot,—*shall not be*,  
 If there is force in *reason* ; or, in *sounds*  
 Chanted beneath the glimpses of the moon,  
 A magic, at this planetary hour,  
 When *slumber* locks the gen'ral lip, and dreams

Thro' senseless mazes hunt souls *un-inspir'd.*  
Attend—the sacred mysteries begin—  
My solemn *night-born* adjuration hear ;  
Hear, and I'll raise thy spirit from the dust ;  
While the *stars* gaze on this enchantment *new* ;  
Enchantment, not infernal, but divine !

" BY silence, DEATH's peculiar attribute !  
" BY darkness, GUILT's inevitable doom !  
" BY darkness, and by silence, sisters dread !  
" That draw the curtain round NIGHT's ebon  
    throne,  
" And raise ideas, solemn as the scene !  
" BY NIGHT, and all of awful, night presents  
" To thought, or sense (of awful much, to both,  
" The goddess brings) ! BY these her trembling  
    fires,  
" Like VESTA's, ever-burning ; and, like hers,  
" Sacred to thoughts immaculate, and pure !  
" BY these bright orators, that prove, and praise,  
" And press thee to revere, the DEITY !  
" Perhaps, too, aid thee, when rever'd awhile,  
" To reach His throne ; as stages of the soul,  
" Thro' which, at diff'rent periods, she shall pass,  
" Refining gradual, for her final height,  
" And purging off some drofs at ev'ry sphere !  
" BY this dark pall thrown o'er the silent world !  
" BY the world's kings, and kingdoms, most  
    renown'd,  
" From short ambition's zenith set for ever ;  
" Sad

" Sad presage to vain boasters, now in bloom !  
" BY the long list of swift mortality,  
" From ADAM downward to this ev'ning knell,  
" Which midnight waves in fancy's startled eye ;  
" And shocks her with an hundred centuries,  
" Round death's black banner throng'd, in human  
thought !  
" BY thousands, now, resigning their last breath,  
" And calling thee—wert thou so wise to hear !  
" BY tombs o'er tombs arising ; human earth  
" Ejected, to make room for—human earth ;  
" The monarch's terror ! and the sexton's trade !  
" BY pompous obsequies, that shun the day,  
" The torch funereal, and the nodding plume,  
" Which makes poor man's humiliation proud ;  
" Boast of our ruin ! triumph of our dust !  
" BY the damp vault that weeps o'er royal bones ;  
" And the pale lamp, that shews the ghastly dead,  
" More ghastly, thro' the thick-incumbent gloom !  
" BY visits (if there are) from darker scenes,  
" The gliding spectre ! and the groaning grove !  
" BY groans, and graves, and miseries that groan  
" For the grave's shelter ! BY desponding men,  
" Senseless to pains of death, from pangs of guilt !  
" BY guilt's last audit ! BY yon moon in blood,  
" The rocking firmament, the falling stars,  
" And thunder's last discharge, great nature's  
knell !  
" BY SECOND chaos ; and ETERNAL night !"—

BE WISE—nor let PHILANDER blame my *charm*;  
 But own not ill-discharg'd my double debt,  
*Love* to the living ; *duty* to the dead.

For know, I'm but executor ; *he* left  
 This moral legacy ; *I* make it o'er  
 By *his* command ; PHILANDER hear in me ;  
 And Heav'n in both.—If deaf to these, oh ! hear  
 FLORELLO's tender voice ; *his* weal depends  
 On *thy* resolve ; it trembles at thy choice ;  
 For *his* sake—love *thyself* : example strikes  
 All human hearts ; a *bad* example more ;  
 More still, a father's ; that ensures his ruin.  
 As parent of his being, wouldst thou prove  
 Th' unnatural parent of his miseries,  
 And make him curse the being which thou gav'ſt ?  
 Is *this* the blessing of so fond a father ?  
 If careless of LORENZO ! spare, oh ! spare,  
 FLORELLO's father, and PHILANDER's friend ;  
 FLORELLO's father ruin'd, ruins him ;  
 And from PHILANDER's friend the world expects  
 A conduct, no dishonour to the dead.  
 Let *passion* do, what *nobler* motive should ;  
 Let *love*, and *emulation*, rise in aid  
 To *reason* ; and persuade thee to be—bleſt.

This seems not a request to be deny'd ;  
 Yet (such th' infatuation of mankind !)  
 'Tis the most *hopeless*, man can make to man.  
 Shall I, then, rise in argument, and warmth ;  
 And urge PHILANDER's posthumous advice,

From

From topics yet unbroach'd?—  
But oh! I faint! my spirits fail!—nor strange;  
So long on wing, and in no middle clime;  
To which my great CREATOR's glory call'd:  
And *calls*—but, now, in vain. *Sleep*'s dewy wand  
Has strok'd my drooping lids, and *promises*  
My long arrear of rest; the *downy god*  
(Wont to return with our returning *peace*)  
Will *pay*, ere-long, and bless me with repose.  
Haste, haste, sweet stranger! from the peasant's cot,  
The ship-boy's hammock, or the soldier's straw,  
Whence *sorrow* never chas'd thee; with thee bring,  
Not hideous visions, as of late; but draughts  
Delicious of well-tasted, cordial, rest;  
Man's rich restorative; his balmy bath,  
That supples, lubricates, and keeps in play,  
The various movements of this nice machine,  
Which asks such frequent periods of repair.  
When tir'd with vain rotations of the day,  
*Sleep* winds us up for the succeeding dawn;  
Fresh we spin on, till *sickness* clogs our wheels,  
Or *death* quite breaks the spring, and motion ends.  
When will it end with me?

—“**T**HOU only know'st,  
“ **T**HOU, whose broad eye the *future*, and the *past*,  
“ Joins to the *present*; making one of *three*  
“ To mortal thought! **T**HOU know'st, and **T**HOU  
alone,

“ All-

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" All-knowing!—all-unknown!—and yet well-known!  
 " Near, tho' remote! and, tho' unfathom'd, felt!  
 " And, tho' invisible, for ever seen!  
 " And seen in all! the *great*, and the *minute*:  
 " Each globe above, with its gigantic race,  
 " Each flow'r, each leaf, with its small people  
     swarm'd,  
 " (Those puny vouchers of OMNIPOTENCE!)  
 " To the first thought, that asks, "*From whence?*"  
     declare  
 " Their common source. THOU Fountain running  
 " In rivers of communicated joy! [o'er  
 " Who gav'it us speech for far, far humbler  
     themes!  
 " Say, by what name shall I presume to call  
 " HIM I see burning in these countless suns,  
 " As *Moses*, in the *bush*? ILLUSTRIOUS MIND!  
 " The whole creation, less, far less, to thee,  
 " Than *that* to the creation's ample round.  
 " How shall I name THEE?—How my labouring  
     soul  
 " Heaves underneath the thought, too big for birth!  
     " Great system of perfections! mighty Cause  
 " Of causes mighty! Cause uncaus'd! sole Root  
 " Of *nature*, that luxuriant growth of GOD!  
 " First Father of *effects*! that progeny  
 " Of endless series; where the golden chain's  
 " Last link admits a period, Who can tell?  
     " Fathers

" Father of all that is or heard, or hears !  
" Father of all that is or seen, or sees !  
" Father of all that *is*, or *shall* arise !  
" Father of this immeasurable mass  
" Of *matter* multi-form ; or dense, or rare ;  
" Opaque, or lucid ; rapid, or at rest ;  
" Minute, or passing bound ! In each extreme  
" Of like amaze, and mystery, to man.  
" Father of these bright millions of the *night* !  
" Of which the least full godhead had proclaim'd,  
" And thrown the gazer on his knee—Or, say,  
" Is appellation higher still, thy choice ?  
" Father of *matter's* temporary lords !  
" Father of *spirits* ! nobler offspring ! sparks  
" Of high paternal glory ; rich-endow'd  
" With various measures, and with various modes  
" Of *instinct*, *reason*, *intuition* ; beams  
" More pale, or bright from *day divine*, to break  
" The dark of matter *organis'd* (the ware  
" Of all *created spirit*) ; beams, that rise  
" Each over other in superior light,  
" Till the last ripens into lustre strong,  
" Of next approach to GODHEAD. Father fond  
" (Far fonder than e'er bore that name on earth)  
" Of *intellectual beings* ! beings blest  
" With pow'rs to please THEE ; not of passive ply  
" To laws they know not ; beings lodg'd in seats  
" Of well-adapted joys ; in diff'rent domes  
" Of this imperial palace for thy sons ;

" Of

" Of this proud, populous, well-policy'd,      " Cal  
 " Tho' boundless habitation, plann'd by THEI      " In  
 " Whose several clans their several climates suit      " Th  
 " And transposition, doubtless, would destroy.      " Bes  
 " Or, Oh! indulge, Immortal KING! indulge      " An  
 " A title, less august indeed, but more      " By  
 " Endearing; ah! how sweet in human ears!      " En  
 " Sweet in our ears! and triumph in our hearts      " Di  
 " Father of immortality to man!      " Of  
 " A theme that \* lately set my soul on fire.—      " (I  
 " And THOU the NEXT! yet equal! THOU,      " To  
     whom      [bought]

" That blessing was convey'd; far more! w      " Re  
 " Ineffable the price! by whom all worlds      " Nu  
 " Were made; and one, redeem'd! Illustrio      " T  
     Light      [powe]

" From Light illustrious! THOU, whose reg      " Su  
 " Finite in time, but infinite in space,      " T  
 " On more than adamantine basis fix'd,      " A  
 " O'er more, far more, than diadems, an      " G  
     thrones,

" Inviolably reigns; the dread of gods!      " O  
 " And oh! the friend of man! Beneath whose foo      " Fi  
 " And by the mandate of whose awful nod,      " W  
 " All regions, revolutions, fortunes, fates,      " B  
 " Of high, of low, of mind, and matter, roll      " F  
 " Thro' the short channels of expiring time,      " F  
 " Or shoreless ocean of eternity,

\* Night the Sixth and Seventh.

" Calm

" Calm, or tempestuous (as thy spirit breathes)  
" In absolute subjection!—And, O THOU  
" The glorious THIRD! Distinct, not separate!  
" Beaming from both! with both incorporate!  
" And (strange to tell!) incorporate with dust!  
" By condescension, as thy glory, great,  
" Enshrin'd in man! Of human hearts, if pure,  
" Divine inhabitant! The tie divine  
" Of heav'n with distant earth! By whom, I trust,  
" (If not inspir'd) uncensur'd this address  
" To THEE, to THEM—To Whom?—Mysteri-  
ous Power!  
" Reveal'd—yet unreveal'd! darkness in light!  
" Number in unity! Our joy! our dread!  
" The triple bolt that lays all wrong in ruin!  
" That animates all right, the triple sun!  
" Sun of the soul; her never-setting sun!  
" Triune, Unutterable, Unconceiv'd,  
" Absconding, yet Demonstrable, GREAT GOD!  
" Greater than Greatest! Better than the Best!  
" Kinder than Kindest! with soft pity's eye,  
" Or (stronger still to speak it) with thine own,  
" From Thy bright home, from that high firma-  
ment,  
" Where THOU, from all eternity, hast dwelt;  
" Beyond archangels unassisted ken;  
" From far above what mortals highest call;  
" From elevation's pinnacle; look down,  
" Through—What? Confounding interval! Thro'  
All, " And

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" And more, than lab'ring fancy can conceive ;  
" Thro' radiant ranks of essences unknown ;  
" Thro' hierarchies from hierarchies detach'd  
" Round various banners of OMNIPOTENCE,  
" With endless change of rapturous duties fir'd ;  
" Thro' wond'rous beings interposing swarms,  
" All clust'ring at the call, to dwell in THEE ;  
" Thro' this wide waste of worlds ; this *vista* vast  
" All sanded o'er with suns ; suns turn'd to *nights* ;  
" Before thy feeblest beam—Look down—down  
" On a poor breathing particle in dust, [—down  
" Or, lower,—an *immortal* in his crimes.  
" His crimes forgive ! Forgive his virtues, too !  
" Those smaller faults ; half-converts to the right  
" Nor let me close these eyes, which never more  
" May see the sun (tho' night's descending scale  
" Now weighs up morn), unpity'd, and unblest !  
" In thy displeasure dwells *eternal* pain ;  
" Pain, our aversion ; pain, which strikes me now  
" And, since all pain is terrible to man,  
" Tho' transient, terrible ; at thy good hour,  
" Gently, ah gently, lay me in my bed,  
" My *clay-cold* bed ! by nature, now, so near ;  
" By nature, near ; still nearer by disease !  
" Till then, be *this*, an emblem of my grave :  
" Let it out-preach the preacher ; ev'ry night  
" Let it out-cry the boy at PHILIP's ear ;  
" That tongue of death ! that herald of the tomb !  
" And when (the shelter of thy wing implor'd)

" My

" My  
" O sin  
" Sugg  
" First,  
" Man'  
" From  
" Here  
" On T  
" Of sp  
" Nor  
" For  
" Exu  
" Tha  
" And  
" O  
" Th  
" Ma  
" TH  
" Un  
" W  
" Th  
" Br  
" Ag  
" Fr  
" T  
" T  
" D  
" A

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" My senses, sooth'd, shall sink in soft repose ;  
" O sink this truth still deeper in my soul,  
" Suggested by my pillow, sign'd by *Fate*,  
" First, in *Fate's* volume, at the page of *Man*—  
" Man's sickly soul, tho' turn'd and toss'd for ever,  
" From side to side, can rest on nought but *THEE* ;  
" Here, in full trust ; Hereafter in full joy.  
" On *THEE*, the promis'd, sure, eternal down  
" Of spirits, toil'd in travel thro' this vale.  
" Nor of that pillow shall my soul desp'ond ;  
" For—Love Almighty ! Love Almighty ! (sing,  
" Exult, creation !) Love Almighty, reigns !  
" That death of *death* ! That cordial of *despair* !  
" And loud ETERNITY's triumphant song !  
" Of whom, no more :—For, O thou PATRON-  
    GOD !  
" Thou God, and mortal ! thence more God to man !  
" Man's theme eternal ! man's eternal theme !  
" THOU canst not 'scape uninjur'd from our praise.  
" Uninjur'd from our praise can HE escape,  
" Who, disembosom'd from the FATHER, bows  
" The heav'n of heav'ns, to kiss the distant earth !  
" Breathes out in agonies a sinless soul !  
" Against the cross, death's iron sceptre breaks !  
" From famish'd ruin plucks her human prey !  
" Throws wide the gates celestial to his foes !  
" Their gratitude, for such a boundless debt,  
" Deputes their suff'ring brothers to receive !  
" And, if deep human guilt in payment fails ;

" As deeper guilt, prohibits our *despair* !

" Injoins it, as our duty, to *rejoice* !

" And (to close all), omnipotently kind,

" \* *Takes his delights among the sons of men.*"

What words are these!—And did they come  
from Heaven?

And were they spoke to man? To guilty man?

What are all mysteries to love like this!

The song of angels, all the melodies

Of choral gods, are wafted in the sound;

Heal and exhilarate the broken heart,

Tho' plung'd, before, in horrors dark as *night*,

Rich prelibation of *consummate joy*!

Nor wait we dissolution to be blest.

This final effort of the moral muse,

How justly + titled! Nor for me alone;

For all that read; what spirit of support,

What heights of CONSOLATION, crown my song!

Then, farewell NIGHT! Of darkness, now, no DREN  
more:

Joy breaks; shines; triumphs; 'tis eternal day.

Shall that which rises out of *nought* complain

Of a few evils, paid with endless joys?

My soul! henceforth, in sweetest union join

The two supports of human happiness,

Which some, erroneous, think can never meet;

True *taste of life*, and constant *thought of death*;

\* *Prov. Chap. viii.*

+ *The Consolation.*

The thought of death, sole victor of its dread !  
Hope be thy joy ; and probity thy skill ;  
Thy patron, HE, whose diadem has dropp'd  
Yon gems of Heav'n ; eternity, thy prize :  
And leave the racers of the world their own,  
Their feather, and their froth, for endless toils :  
They part with all for that which is not bread ;  
They mortify, they starve, on wealth, fame, power ;  
And laugh to scorn the fools that aim at more.  
How must a spirit, late escap'd from earth,  
Suppose PHILANDER's, LUCIA's, or NARCISSA's,  
The truth of things, new-blazing in its eye,  
Look back, astonish'd, on the ways of men,  
Whose lives whole drift is to forget their graves !  
And when our present privilege is past,  
To scourge us with due sense of its abuse,  
The same astonishment will seize us all.  
What then must pain us, would preserve us now.  
LORENZO ! 'tis not yet too late : LORENZO !  
Seize wisdom, ere 'tis torment to be wise ;  
That is, seize wisdom, ere she seizes thee.  
Or, what, my small philosopher ! is hell ?  
Tis nothing, but full knowlege of the truth,  
When truth, resisted long, is sworn our foe ;  
And calls ETERNITY to do her right.  
Thus, darkness aiding intellectual light,  
And sacred silence whisp'ring truths divine,  
And truths divine converting pain to peace,  
By song the midnight raven has outwing'd,

And

And shot, ambitious of unbounded scenes,  
 Beyond the flaming limits of the world,  
 Her gloomy flight. But what avails the flight  
 Of fancy, when our hearts remain below?  
*Virtue* abounds in flatterers, and foes ;  
 'Tis pride, to praise her ; penance, to perform.  
 To more than words, to more than worth of tongue,  
**Lorenzo !** rise, at this auspicious hour ;  
 An hour, when Heav'n's most intimate with man,  
 When, like a falling star, the ray divine  
 Glides swift into the bosom of the *just* ;  
 And just are all, *determin'd* to reclaim ;  
 Which sets that title high, within thy reach.  
 Awake, then : thy **PHILANDER** calls : awake !  
 Thou, who shalt wake, when the creation sleeps,  
 When, like a taper, all these suns expire ;  
 When **TIME**, like him of *Gaza* in his wrath,  
 Plucking the pillars that support the world,  
 In **NATURE**'s ample ruins lies entomb'd ;  
 And **MIDNIGHT**, *universal* Midnight ! reigns.

**E N D of the Night-Thoughts.**

## A

## P A R A P H R A S E

O N

Part of the Book of *JOB.*

**T**HRIICE happy *Job* long liv'd in regal state,  
 Nor saw the sumptuous east a prince so great ;  
 Whose worldly stores in such abundance flow'd,  
 Whose heart with such exalted virtue glow'd.  
 At length misfortunes take their turn to reign,  
 And ills on ills succeed ; a dreadful train !  
 What now but deaths, and poverty, and wrong,  
 The sword wide-wasting, the reproachful tongue,  
 And spotted plagues, that mark'd his limbs all o'er  
 So thick with pains, they wanted room for more ?  
 A change so sad what mortal heart could bear ?  
 Exhausted woe had left him nought to fear ;  
 But gave him all to grief. Low earth he prest,  
 Wept in the dust, and sorely smote his breast.  
 His friends around the deep affliction mourn'd,  
 Felt all his pangs, and groan for groan return'd ;  
 In anguish of their hearts their mantles rent,  
 And sev'n long days in solemn silence spent ;  
 A debt of rev'rence to distress so great !  
 Then *Job* contain'd no more ; but curs'd his fate.

R

His

His day of birth, its inauspicious light,  
 He wishes sunk in shades of endless night,  
 And blotted from the year ; nor fears to crave  
 Death, instant death ; impatient for the grave,  
 That seat of peace, that mansion of repose,  
 Where rest and mortals are no longer foes ;  
 Where counsellors are hush'd, and mighty kings,  
 (O happy turn !) no more are wretched things.

His words were daring, and displeas'd his  
 friends ;

His conduct they reprove, and he defends ;  
 And now they kindled into warm debate,  
 And sentiments oppos'd with equal heat ;  
 Fixt in opinion, both refuse to yield,  
 And summon all their reason to the field :  
 So high at length their arguments were wrought,  
 They reach'd the last extent of human thought ;  
 A pause ensu'd.—When, lo ! Heav'n interpos'd,  
 And awfully the long contention clos'd.  
 Full o'er their heads, with terrible surprize,  
 A sudden whirlwind blacken'd all the skies :  
 (They saw, and trembled !) from the darkness broke  
 A dreadful voice, and thus th' Almighty spoke.

Who gives his tongue a loose so bold and vain,  
 Censures my conduct, and reproves my reign ?  
 Lifts up his thoughts against Me from the dust,  
 And tells the world's Creator what is just ?  
 Of late so brave, now lift a dauntless eye,  
 Face my demand, and give it a reply :

Where didst thou dwell at nature's early birth?  
Who laid foundations for the spacious *earth*?  
Who on its surface did extend the line,  
Its form determine, and its bulk confine?  
Who fix'd the corner-stone? What hand, declare,  
Hung it on nought, and fasten'd it in air;  
When the bright morning stars in concert sung,  
When heav'n's high arch with loud hosanna's  
        rung,  
When shouting sons of God the triumph crown'd,  
And the wide concave thunder'd with the sound?  
Earth's num'rous *kingdoms*, hast thou view'd  
        them all?

And can thy span of knowlege grasp the ball?  
Who heav'd the *mountain*, which sublimely stands,  
And casts its shadow into distant lands?

Who, stretching forth his sceptre o'er the *deep*,  
Can that wide world in due subjection keep?  
I broke the globe, I scoop'd its hollow side,  
And did a bason for the floods provide;  
I chain them with my word; the boiling sea,  
Work'd up in tempests, hears my great decree;  
“ Thus far, thy floating tide shall be convey'd;  
“ And here, O main, be thy proud billows stay'd.”

Hast thou explor'd the *secrets* of the deep,  
Where, shut from use, unnumber'd treasures sleep;  
Where, down a thousand fathoms from the day,  
Springs the great fountain, mother of the sea?

Those gloomy paths did thy bold foot e'er tread,  
Whole worlds of waters rolling o'er thy head?

Hath the cleft *centre* open'd wide to thee?  
Death's inmost chambers didst thou ever see?  
E'er knock at his tremendous gate, and wade  
To the black portal thro' th' incumbent shade?  
Deep are those shades; but shades still deeper hide  
My counsels from the ken of human pride.

Where dwells the *light*? in what resplendent  
dome?

And where has *darkness* made her dismal home?  
Thou know'st, no doubt, since thy large heart is  
fraught

With ripen'd wisdom thro' long ages brought;  
Since nature was call'd forth when thou wast by,  
And into being rose beneath thine eye!

Are *mists* begotten? Who their father knew?  
From whom descend the pearly drops of dew?  
To bind the stream by night, what hand can boast,  
Or whiten morning, with the hoary *frost*?  
Whose pow'rful breath, from northern regions  
blown,

Touches the sea, and turns it into stone?  
A sudden desert spreads o'er realms defac'd,  
And lays one half of the creation waste?

Thou know'st Me not; thy blindness cannot see  
How vast a distance parts thy God from thee.  
Canst thou in *whirlwinds* mount aloft? Canst thou  
In clouds and darkness wrap thy awful brow?

And

And when day triumphs in meridian light,  
Put forth thy hand, and shade the world with  
night?

Who launch'd the *clouds* in air, and bid them roll  
Suspended seas aloft, from pole to pole?  
Who can refresh the burning sandy plain,  
And quench the summer with a waste of rain?  
Who in rough desarts, far from human toil,  
Made rocks bring forth, and desolation smile?  
There blooms the rose, where human face ne'er  
shone,

And spreads its beauties to the sun alone.

To check the show'r, who lifts his hand on high,  
And shuts the sluices of th' exhausted sky;  
When earth no longer mourns her gaping veins,  
Her naked mountains, and her russet plains;  
But, new in life, a cheerful prospect yields  
Of shining rivers, and of verdant fields;  
When groves and forests lavish all their bloom,  
And earth and heav'n are fill'd with rich perfume?

Hast thou e'er scal'd my wintry skies, and seen  
Of *hail* and *snows* my northern magazine?  
These the dread treasures of mine anger are,  
My fund of vengeance for the day of war,  
When clouds rain death, and storms, at my  
command,  
Rage thro' the world, or waste a guilty land.

Who taught the rapid *winds* to fly so fast,  
Or shakes the centre with his eastern blast?

Who from the skies can a whole deluge pour ?  
 Who strikes thro' nature with the solemn roar  
 Of dreadful *thunder*, points it where to fall,  
 And in fierce *lightning* wraps the flying ball ?  
 Not he who trembles at the darted fires,  
 Falls at the sound, and in the flash expires.

Who drew the *comet* out to such a size,  
 And pou'd his flaming train o'er half the skies ?  
 Did thy resentment hang him out ? Does he  
 Glare on the nations, and denounce, from thee ?

Who on low earth can moderate the rein,  
 That guides the *stars* along th' æthereal plain ;  
 Appoint their seasons, and direct their course,  
 Their lustre brighten, and supply their force ?  
 Canst thou the skies benevolence restrain,  
 And cause the *Pleiades* to shine in vain ?  
 Or, when *Orion* sparkles from his sphere,  
 Thaw the cold season, and unbind the year ?  
 Bid *Mazzaroth* his destin'd station know,  
 And teach the bright *Arcturus* where to glow ?  
 Mine is the *night*, with all her stars ; I pour  
 Myriads, and myriads I reserve in store. [born,

Dost thou pronounce where day-light shall be  
 And draw the purple curtain of the morn ;  
 Awake the *sun*, and bid him come away,  
 And glad thy world with his obsequious ray ?  
 Hast thou, inthron'd in flaming glory, driv'n  
 Triumphant round the spacious ring of heav'n ?  
 That pomp of light, what hand so far displays,  
 That distant earth lies basking in the blaze ?

Who did the soul with her rich pow'rs invest,  
And light up reason in the human breast,  
To shine, with fresh increase of lustre, bright,  
When stars and sun are set in endless night?  
To these my various questions make reply. [sky.

Th' Almighty spoke; and, speaking, shook the  
What then, Chaldaean fire, was thy surprize!  
Thus thou, with trembling heart, and down-cast  
eyes:

"Once and again, which I in groans deplore,  
"My tongue has err'd; but shall presume no more.  
"My voice is in eternal silence bound,  
"And all my soul falls prostrate to the ground."

He ceas'd: when, lo! again th' Almighty spake;  
The same dread voice from the black whirlwind  
broke,

Can that arm measure with an arn divine?  
And canst thou thunder with a voice like mine?  
Or in the hollow of thy hand contain  
The bulk of waters, the wide spreading main,  
When, mad with tempests, all the billows rise  
In all their rage, and dash the distant skies?

Come forth, in beauty's excellence array'd;  
And be the grandeur of thy pow'r display'd;  
Put on omnipotence, and frowning make  
The spacious round of the creation shake;  
Dispatch thy vengeance, bid it overthrow  
Triumphant vice, lay lofty tyrants low,

And crumble them to dust. When this is done,  
I grant thy safety lodg'd in thee alone ;  
Of thee thou art, and may'st undaunted stand  
Behind the buckler of thine own right hand.

Fond man ! the vision of a moment made !  
Dream of a dream ! and shadow of a shade !  
What worlds hast thou produc'd, what creatures  
fram'd,

What insects cherish'd, that thy God is blam'd ?  
When, pain'd with hunger, the wild *raven's* brood  
Calls upon God, importunate for food, [quest,  
Who hears their cry, who grants their hoarse re-  
And stills the clamour of the craving nest ?

Who in the cruel *ostrich* has subdu'd  
A parent's care, and fond inquietude ?  
While far she flies, her scatter'd eggs are found,  
Without an owner, on the sandy ground ;  
Cast out on fortune, they at mercy lie,  
And borrow life from an indulgent sky ;  
Adopted by the sun, in blaze of day,  
They ripen under his prolific ray.  
Unmindful she, that some unhappy tread  
May crush her young in their neglected bed.  
What time she skims along the field with speed,  
She scorns the rider, and pursuing steed.

How rich the *peacock* ! what bright glories run  
From plume to plume, and vary in the sun !  
He proudly spreads them to the golden ray,  
Gives all his colours, and adorns the day ;

With

With conscious state the spacious round displays,  
And slowly moves amid the waving blaze.

Who taught the *hawk* to find, in seasons wise,  
Perpetual summer, and a change of skies?

When clouds deform the year, she mounts the  
wind,

Shoots to the south, nor fears the storm behind;  
The sun returning, she returns again,  
Lives in his beams, and leaves ill days to men.

Tho' strong the hawk, tho' practis'd well to fly,  
An *eagle* drops her in a lower sky;  
An *eagle*, when, deserting human sight,  
She seeks the sun in her unwear'y'd flight.  
Did thy command her yellow pinion lift  
So high in air, and seat her on the cliff,  
Where far above thy world she dwells alone,  
And proudly makes the strength of rocks her own;  
Thence wide o'er nature takes her dread survey,  
And with a glance predestinates her prey?  
She feasts her young with blood, and, hov'ring o'er  
Th' unslaughter'd host, enjoys the *promis'd* gore.

Know'st thou how many moons, by Me assign'd,  
Roll o'er the mountain *goat*, and forest *hind*,  
While pregnant they a mother's load sustain?  
They bend in anguish, and cast forth their pain.  
Hale are their young, from human frailties freed;  
Walk unsustain'd, and unassisted feed;  
They live at once; forsake the dani's warm side;  
Take the wide world, with nature for their guide;

Bound o'er the lawn, or seek the distant glade ;  
And find a home in each delightful shade.

Will the tall *reem*, which knows no lord but Me,  
Low at the crib, and ask an alms of thee ?  
Submit his unworn shoulder to the yoke,  
Break the stiff clod, and o'er thy furrow smoak ?  
Since great his strength, go trust him, void of care ;  
Lay on his neck the toil of all the year ;  
Bid him bring home the seasons to thy doors,  
And cast his load among thy gather'd stores.

Didst thou from service the *wild-ass* discharge,  
And break his bonds, and bid him live at large,  
Thro' the wide waste, his ample mansion, roam,  
And lose himself in his unbounded home ?  
By nature's hand magnificently fed,  
His meal is on the range of mountains spread ;  
As in pure air aloft he bounds along,  
He sees in distant smoak the city throng ;  
Conscious of freedom, scorns the smother'd train,  
The threat'ning driver, and the servile rein.

Survey the warlike *horse* ! Didst thou invest  
With thunder, his robust distended chest ?  
No sense of fear his dauntless soul allays ;  
'Tis dreadful to behold his nostrils blaze ;  
To paw the vale he proudly takes delight,  
And triumphs in the fulness of his might ;  
High-rais'd he snuffs the battle from afar,  
And burns to plunge amid the raging war,  
And mocks at death, and throws his foam around,  
And in a storm of fury shakes the ground. How

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How does his firm, his rising heart advance  
Full on the brandish'd sword, and shaken lance ;  
While his fixt eye-balls meet the dazzling shield,  
**Gaze**, and return the lightning of the field !  
He sinks the sense of pain in gen'rous pride,  
Nor feels the shaft that trembles in his side ;  
But neighs to the shrill trumpet's dreadful blast  
Till death ; and when he groans, he groans his last.

But, fiercer still, the lordly *lion* stalks,  
Grimly majestic in his lonely walks ;  
When round he glares, all living creatures fly ;  
He clears the desert with his rolling eye.  
Say, mortal, does he rouse at thy command,  
And roar to thee, and live upon thy hand ?  
Dost thou for him in forests bend thy bow,  
And to his gloomy den the morsel throw,  
Where bent on death lie hid his tawny brood,  
And, couch'd in dreadful ambush, pant for blood ;  
Or, stretch'd on broken limbs, consume the day,  
In darkness wrapt, and slumber o'er their prey ?  
By the pale moon they take their destin'd round,  
And lash their sides, and furious tear the ground.  
Now shrieks, and dying groans, the desert fill ;  
They rage, they rend, their rav'nous jaws distill  
With crimson foam ; and, when the banquet's o'er,  
They stride away, and paint their steps with gore ;  
In flight alone the shepherd puts his trust,  
And shudders at the talon in the dust.

Mild is my *bahemoth*, tho' large his frame ;  
Smooth is his temper, and represt his flame,  
While unprovok'd. This native of the flood  
Lifts his broad foot, and puts ashore for food ;  
Earth sinks beneath him, as he moves along  
To seek the herbs, and mingle with the throng.  
See, with what strength his harden'd loins are bound,  
All over proof, and shut against a wound.  
How like a mountain cedar moves his tail !  
Nor can his complicated sinews fail.  
Built high and wide, his solid bones surpass  
The bars of steel ; his ribs are ribs of brass ;  
His port majestic, and his armed jaw,  
Give the wide forest, and the mountain, law.  
The mountains feed him ; there the beasts admire  
The mighty stranger, and in dread retire :  
At length his greatness nearer they survey,  
Graze in his shadow, and his eye obey.  
The fens and marshes are his cool retreat,  
His noontide shelter from the burning heat ;  
Their sedgy bosoms his wide couch are made,  
And groves of willows give him all their shade.  
His eye drinks *Jordan* up, when, fir'd with drought,  
He trusts to turn its current down his throat ;  
In lessen'd waves it creeps along the plain ;  
He sinks a river, and he thirsts again.  
*I* Go to the *Nile*, and, from its fruitful side,  
*A*Cast forth thy line into the swelling tide :  
*A*With slender hair *leviatban* command,  
*A*And stretch his vastness on the loaded strand.

Will he become thy servant? Will he own  
Thy lordly nod, and tremble at thy frown?  
Or with his sport amuse thy leisure-day,  
And, bound in silk, with thy soft maidens play?

Shall pompous banquets fwell with such a prize,  
And the bowl journey round his ample size?  
Or the debating merchants share the prey,  
And various limbs to various marts convey?  
Thro' his firm skull what steel its way can win?  
What forceful engine can subdue his skin?  
Fly far, and live; tempt not his matchless might;  
The bravest shrink to cowards in his sight;  
The rashest dare not rouse him up: Who then  
Shall turn on Me, among the sons of men?

Am I a debtor? Hast thou ever heard  
Whence come the gifts which are on Me conferr'd?  
My lavish fruit a thousand valleys fills,  
And mine the herds, that graze a thousand hills:  
Earth, sea, and air, all nature is my own;  
And stars and sun are dust beneath my throne.  
And dar'st thou with the world's great Father vye,  
Thou, who dost tremble at my creature's eye?

At full my large *leviathan* shall rise,  
Boast all his strength, and spread his wond'rous  
size.

Who, great in arms, e'er stripp'd his shining mail,  
Or crown'd his triumph with a single scale?  
Whose heart sustains him to draw near? Behold,  
Destruction yawns; his spacious jaws unfold,

And, marshall'd round the wide expanse, disclose  
 Teeth edg'd with death, and crouding rows on rows :  
 What hideous fangs on either side arise !

And what a deep abyss between them lies !

Mete with thy lance, and with thy plumbet sound,  
 The one how long, the other how profound.

His bulk is charg'd with such a furious soul,  
 That clouds of smoke from his spread nostrils roll,  
 As from a furnace ; and, when rous'd his ire,  
 Fate issues from his jaws in streams of fire.

The rage of tempests, and the roar of seas,  
 Thy terror, this thy great superior please ;  
 Strength on his ample shoulder sits in state ;  
 His well-join'd limbs are dreadfully complete ;  
 His flakes of solid flesh are slow to part ;  
 As steel his nerves, as adamant his heart.

When, late-awak'd, he rears him from the floods,  
 And, stretching forth his stature to the clouds,  
 Writhes in the sun aloft his scaly height,  
 And strikes the distant hills with transient light,  
 Far round are fatal damps of terror spread ;  
 The mighty fear, nor blush to own their dread.

Large is his front ; and, when his burnish'd  
 Eyes

Lift their broad lids, the morning seems to rise.

In vain may death in various shapes invade,  
 The swift-wing'd arrow, the descending blade ;  
 His naked breast their impotence defies ;  
 The dart rebounds, the brittle faulchion flies.

Shut

Shut in himself, the war without he hears,  
Safe in the tempest of their rattling spears ;  
The cumber'd strand their wasted vallies strow ;  
His sport, the rage and labour of the foe.

His pastimes like a caldron boil the flood,  
And blacken ocean with the rising mud ;  
The billows feel him, as he works his way ;  
His hoary footsteps shine along the sea ; [green,  
The foam high-wrought, with white, divides the  
The distant sailors point where death has been.

His like earth bears not on her spacious face :  
Alone in nature stand his dauntless race,  
For utter ignorance of fear renown'd.  
In wrath he rolls his baleful eye around ;  
Makes every swoln, disdainful heart subside ;  
And holds dominion o'er the sons of pride.

Then the *Chaldean* eas'd his lab'ring breast,  
With full conviction of his crime opprest. [might !  
“ Thou canst accomplish all things, Lord of  
“ And ev'ry thought is naked to thy sight.  
“ But oh ! thy ways are wonderful, and lie  
“ Beyond the deepest reach of mortal eye.  
“ Oft have I heard of thine Almighty pow'r ;  
“ But never saw Thee till this dreadful hour.  
“ O'erwhelm'd with shame, the Lord of life I see ;  
“ Abhor myself, and give my soul to Thee.  
“ Nor shall my weakness tempt thine anger more :  
“ Man was not made to question, but adore.”



## NOTE S.

IT is disputed among the critics who was the author of the book of *Job*. Some give it to *Moses*; some to others. As I was engag'd in this little performance, some arguments occur'd to me, which favour the former of these opinions; which arguments I have flung into the following notes, where little else is to be expected.

Page 361. *Thrice happy Job, &c.]* The Almighty's speech, chapter xxxviii. &c. which is what I paraphrase in this little work, is by much the finest part of the noblest, and most antient poem in the world. Bishop *Patrick* says, its grandeur is as much above all other poetry, as thunder is louder than a whisper. In order to set this distinguisht part of the poem in a fuller light, and give the reader a clearer conception of it, I have abridg'd the preceding and subsequent parts of the poem, and join'd them to it; so that this piece is a sort of an epitome of the whole book of *Job*.

I use the word *paraphrase*, because I want another which might better answer to the uncommon liberties I have taken. I have omitted, added, and transpos'd. The *mountain*, the *comet*, the *sun*, and other parts, are intirely added: the *peacock*, the *lion*, &c. are much enlarg'd: and I have thrown the whole into a method more suitable to our notions of regularity. The judicious,

if

if they compare this piece with the original, will, I flatter myself, find the reasons for the great liberties I have indulg'd myself in through the whole.

*Longinus* has a chapter on interrogations, which shews that they contribute much to the sublime. This speech of the Almighty is made up of them. Interrogation seems indeed the proper stile of majesty incens'd. It differs from other manner of reproof, as bidding a person execute himself, does from a common execution; for he that asks the guilty a proper question, makes him, in effect, pass sentence on himself.

Page 362.—*From the darkness broke  
A dreadful voice, and thus th' Almighty spoke.]*  
The book of *Job* is well known to be dramatic, and, like the tragedies of old *Greece*, is fiction built on truth. Probably this most noble part of it, the Almighty speaking out of the whirlwind (so suitable to the after-practice of the *Greek* stage, when there happened *dignus vindice nodus*), is fictitious; but it is a fiction more agreeable to the time in which *Job* lived, than to any since. Frequent, before the law, were the appearances of the Almighty after this manner, *Exodus* ch. xix. *Ezekiel* ch. i. &c. Hence is he said to *dwell in thick darkness: and have his way in the whirlwind.*

Page 363. *Thus far thy floating tide, &c.]* There is a very great air in all that precedes; but this is signally sublime. We are struck with admiration to see the vast and ungovernable ocean receiving

ceiving commands, and punctually obeying them; to find it like a manag'd horse, raging, tossing, and foaming, but by the rule and direction of its Master. This passage yields in sublimity to that of *Let there be light*, &c. so much only, as the absolute government of nature yields to the creation of it.

The like spirit in these two passages is no bad concurrent argument, that *Moses* is author of the book of *Job*.

Page 368. *When, pain'd with hunger, the wild raven's brood, &c.]* Another argument that *Moses* was the author, is, that most of the creatures here mention'd are *Egyptian*. The reason given why the raven is particularly mention'd as an object of the care of Providence, is, because, by her clamorous and importunate voice, she particularly seems always calling upon it; thence *κοπαρων* à *κηρεξ*, is to ask earnestly, *Aelian.* l. ii. c. 48. And since there were ravens on the banks of the *Nile* more clamorous than the rest of that species, those probably are meant in this place.

*Ibid. Who in the cruel ostrich has subdu'd, &c.]* There are many instances of this bird's stupidity; let two suffice.

*First,* It covers its head in the reeds, and thinks itself all out of sight.

—*Stat lumine clauso*

*Ridendum revoluta caput; creditque latere,*

*Quæ non ipsa videt* —

*Claud.*

*Secondly,*

Secondly, They that go in pursuit of them, draw the skin of an ostrich's neck on one hand, which proves a sufficient lure to take them with the other.

They have so little brain, that *Heliogabalus* had six hundred heads for his supper.

Here we may observe, that our judicious as well as sublime author, just touches the great points of distinction in each creature, and then hastens to another. A description is exact when you cannot add, but what is common to another thing; nor withdraw, but something peculiarly belonging to the thing describ'd. A likeness is lost in too much description, as a meaning often in too much illustration.

Page 368. *What time she skims along the field, &c.*] Here is mark'd another peculiar quality of this creature, which neither flies, nor runs distinctly, but has a motion compos'd of both, and, using its wings as sails, makes great speed.

*Vasta velut Libyæ venantum vocibus ales  
Cum premitur, calidas cursu transmittit arenas,  
Inque modum veli sinuatis flamine pennis  
Pul-verulenta volat--*                           Claud. in Eutr.

Ibid. *She scorns the rider, and pursuing steed.*] Xenophon says, Cyrus had horses that could overtake the goat, and the wild-ass; but none that could reach this creature. A thousand golden ducats, or a hundred camels, was the stated price of a horse that could equal their speed.

Page 368. *How rich the peacock, &c.]* Though this bird is but just mention'd in my author, I could not forbear going a little farther, and spreading those beautiful plumes (which are there shut up) into half a dozen lines. The circumstance I have mark'd of his opening his plumes to the sun is true. *Expandit colores adverso maxime sole, quia sic fulgentius radiant.* Plin. l. x. c. 20.

Page 369. *Though strong the hawk, though practis'd well to fly.]* Thuanus (*de re accip.*) mentions a hawk that flew from Paris to London in a night.

And the *Egyptians*, in regard to its swiftness, made it their symbol for the wind; for which reason we may suppose the hawk, as well as the crow *above*, to have been a bird of note in *Egypt*.

Ibid. *Thence wide o'er nature takes her dread survey, &c.]* The eagle is said to be of so acute a sight, that when she is so high in air, that man cannot see her, she can discern the smallest fish under water. My author accurately understood the nature of the creatures he describes, and seems to have been a naturalist as well as a poet, which the next note will confirm.

Ibid. *Know'st thou how many moons, by Me assign'd, &c.]* The meaning of this question is, Know'st thou the time and circumstances of their bringing forth? For to know the time only was easy, and had nothing extraordinary in it; but the circumstances had something peculiarly expressive

pressive of God's providence, which makes the question proper in this place. *Pliny* observes, that the hind with young is by instinct directed to a certain herb called *seselis*, which facilitates the birth. Thunder also (which looks like the more immediate hand of Providence) has the same effect, *Pf. xxix.* In so early an age to observe these things may stile our author a naturalist.

Page 370. *Survey the warlike horse, &c.]* The description of the horse is the most celebrated of any in the poem. There is an excellent critique on it in the *Guardians*. I shall therefore only observe, that, in this description, as in other parts of this speech, our *vulgar translation* has much more spirit than the *Septuagint*; it always takes the original in the most poetical and exalted sense, so that most commentators, even on the *Hebrew* itself, fall beneath it.

Page 371. *By the pale moon they take their defin'd round, &c.]* Pursuing their prey by night is true of most wild beasts, particularly the lion. *Pf. civ. v. 20.* The *Arabians* have one among their 500 names for the lion, which signifies *the hunter by moon-shine*.

Page 372. *He sinks a river, and he thirsts again, &c.]*

*Cephisi glaciale caput, quo suetus anhelam  
Ferre sitim Python, annemque avertere pontos.*

Stat. Theb. v. 349.

Qui

*Qui spiris teget montes, bauriret hiata  
Flumina, &c.—*

Claud. Praef. in Ruf.

Let not then this hyperbole seem too much for an eastern poet, tho' some commentators of name strain hard in this place for a new construction, thro' fear of it.

Page 372. *Go to the Nile, and from its fruitful side, &c.]* The taking the crocodile is most difficult. Diodorus says, they are not to be taken but by iron nets. When Augustus conquer'd Egypt, he struck a medal, the impress of which was a crocodile chain'd to a palm-tree, with this inscription, *Nemus ante a religavit.*

Page 373. *The rashest dare not rouse him up, &c.]* This alludes to a custom of this creature, which is, when fated with fish, to come ashore, and sleep among the reeds.

Ibid. ——Behold,  
*Destruction yawns, his spacious jaws unfold, &c.]* The crocodile's mouth is exceeding wide. When he gapes, says Pliny, *fit totum os.* Martial says to his old woman,

*Cum comparata rictibus tuis ora  
Niliacus habet crocodilus angusta.*

So that the expression here is barely just.

Page 374. *Fate issues from his jaws in streams of fire]* This too is nearer truth than at first view may be imagined. The crocodile, say the naturalists,

lying

lying long under water, and being there forced to hold its breath, when it emerges, the breath long represt is hot, and bursts out so violently, that it resembles fire and smoke. The horse suppresses not his breath by any means so long, neither is he so fierce and animated; yet the most correct of poets ventures to use the same metaphor concerning him.

*Collectumque premens volvit sub naribus ignem.*

By this and the foregoing note I would caution against a false opinion of the eastern boldness, from passages in them ill understood.

Page 374. *Large is his front; and, when his burnish'd eyes, &c.] His eyes are like the eyelids of the morning.* I think this gives us as great an image of the thing it would express, as can enter the thought of man. It is not improbable, that the Egyptians stole their hieroglyphic for the morning, which is the crocodile's eye, from this passage, though no commentator I have seen, mentions it. It is easy to conceive how the Egyptians should be both readers and admirers of the writings of Moses, whom I suppose the author of this poem.

I have observed already, that three or four of the creatures here describ'd are Egyptian: the two last are notoriously so; they are the river-horse, and the crocodile, those celebrated inhabitants of the Nile; and on these two it is that our author chiefly dwells. It would have been expected from an author more remote from that river than Moses, in a catalogue of creatures produc'd

produc'd to magnify their Creator, to have dwelt on the two largest works of his hand, viz. the elephant, and the whale: this is so natural an expectation, that some commentators have render'd *behemoth* and *leviathan*, the elephant and whale, tho' the descriptions in our author will not admit of it; but *Moses* being (as we may well suppose) under an immediate terror of the *hippopotamos* and crocodile from their daily mischiefs and ravages around him, it is very accountable why he should permit them to take place.

F I N I S.



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